

*Hafa Adai!*

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 100

WEDNESDAY APRIL 9, 2008

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

Visit us online @  
**www.saipantribune.com**

## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
Where should the governor deliver his State of the Commonwealth Address this year?

Let your voice be heard!  
Go to  
**www.saipantribune.com**  
to cast your vote.

## INSIDE



### Golden Protest

Three people protesting China's human rights record climbed up the Golden Gate Bridge and tied two banners to its cables.

**NATION...Page 16**

### Failed Coup

A Philippine court sentenced nine military officers to jail terms ranging from 12 to 40 years for taking part in a foiled coup plot against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in 2003.

**ASIA...Page 17**



### Pulitzer Awards

The Washington Post won six Pulitzer Prizes on Monday—the most in its history.

**LIFE & STYLE...Page 18**

CUC fuel supply to last only until next week. **PAGE 3**  
DUI and child seat checkpoints this week. **PAGE 8**

# OPA: SHEFA funds misused

By **AGNES E. DONATO**  
agnes\_donato@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Officials in charge of the Saipan scholarship program have misused public funds through questionable hiring and improper payments to board members, the Office of the Public Auditor has found.

OPA conducted a review of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program at the request of Rep. Justo S.

Quitugua.

In its report, Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan questioned

**See OPA on Page 4**

## 'Status proposal won't prevent federalization'

By **AGNES E. DONATO**  
agnes\_donato@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A staffer at the U.S. Senate says there is no stopping the passage of legislation that will place the Northern Marianas under federal immigration control.

Bill Wicker, communica-

tions director of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, said that not even a local proposal to grant permanent immigration status to long-time guest workers would make the senators change their minds.

**See STATUS on Page 4**

## TaoTao Tano, alien workers group solicit opinions on status proposal

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
rienne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The TaoTao Tano CNMI Association and the Long-Term Status Working Group will be hosting a series of discussion

forums where they plan to ask community members to share their views on a possible longer-term residence status for qualified foreign workers.

TaoTao Tano president Greg

**See TAOTAO on Page 4**



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

### ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

DEQ biologist Peter Houk explains to students the value of coral reef and its ecosystem for the CNMI, while hundreds of other students interact with different presenters during the Division of Environmental Quality's 2008 Environmental Awareness Expo at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe yesterday. Inset, an Oleai Elementary School student shrieks before touching the brown tree snake at the Division of Fish & Wildlife's Brown Tree Snake program booth. **See story on Page 2 and more pictures on Page 9**

## 9 Tottotville owners get settlement

By **MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Nine Tottotville homeowners received the final payments of their settlement agreement with Telesource CNMI, Inc. and Telebond Insurance Corp. yesterday.

**See 9 on Page 4**

INTRODUCING

ICONNECT'S

**25-5 MABUHAY TALK & TEXT!**

TALK & TEXT to the Philippines!  
SMART, GLOBE & SUN CELLULAR

**25¢ PER MINUTE FOR CALLS**  
**5¢ PER TEXT MESSAGE**  
**TEXT & TAWAG NA!**



**888-8888**

FREE incoming text messages.  
Conditions apply.



## Local

# 'Rota ILS is a chicken-and-egg dilemma'

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Rota International Airport has a big problem: It needs an instrument landing system to attract more carriers; however, the Federal Aviation Administration

says it can only install one if the airport has enough air traffic to make the expense worth it.

Continental Airlines director of flight operations Capt. Ralph A. Freeman said the Rota airport is indeed in a bind with regards to ILS but said that the regional

Federal Aviation Administration office has nothing to do with the problem.

"I agree [that it is] a chicken-and-egg scenario. However, it's not a policy of the WestPac office; it is more FAA standard procedure. I would highly rec-

ommend getting CNMI politicians involved in lobbying for funding and support of an ILS. The availability of a precision approach would encourage carriers to begin or increase service to ROP (Rota International Airport)," he said in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

ILS helps pilots land aircraft during rough weather and nighttime conditions when runway visibility is poor.

Freeman said one alternative to the ILS, which costs \$2 million to install, is the much cheaper GPS landing system.

"A GLS would be the best solution but it will be several months before certification. And the aircraft have to be equipped to receive the signal in space. Eventually it will be available to all carriers and airports," he said.

FAA Western-Pacific regional administrator William C. Withycombe, for his part, said that the GLS Continental proposes to use in Guam is a local system

that uses GPS signal and refined by ground-based units to fly a similar radio-based approach to the end of the runway.

"It would do the same thing as the ground-based ILS system and would probably be easier to install," he said.

However, Withycombe explained that the GLS is not accepted by all foreign carriers and, as Freeman already stated, it has yet to be certified by FAA for use in specific locations like Guam, Rota, or Tinian. "It's not yet an approved system that we could pull off the shelf and install."

During last week's 2008 Pacific Aviation Directors Workshop at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Freeman noted that they recently installed a GLS from the ground up in 48 hours during a recent experiment in Guam.

"It's economical. When there's a typhoon, you could just pull it in, unlike ILS which can be blown away. A lot of questions will be solved by GLS,

from small airlines to big airlines. As soon as this thing gets certified—and that's what we're trying to do with the FAA—the sooner we'll get this thing off the ground," he said.

A Cape Air representative, echoed Freeman's comments and said either ILS or GLS would be great for Rota.

Pacific Development Inc. general manager Yoichi Matsumura, for his part, said that his company would rather not comment on the ILS debate for Rota.

"Since Continental has agreed to fly, it is our understanding that everything has been investigated by the carrier before they made their decision to fly Rota. However, having the ILS on island will be beneficial to the airport operations. Overall, it is our hope that this project will contribute to the CNMI economy, however little," he said in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

PDI is planning 40 new charter flights to Rota in the next couple of years and the flights are expected to bring in some 8,000 additional tourists to the island.

## Over 400 students participate in DEQ environmental exhibit

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN  
rienne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Over 400 students got the chance to learn how things work in protecting the environment during an environmental exhibit yesterday at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Students from the Oleai Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Tanapag Elementary School, and Marianas High School participated in hands-on demonstrations provided by various government agencies and private organizations.

Students learned how water is tested for bacteria or other microorganisms, how electricity works and how to conserve it, how to safely dispose of pesticides and other solid wastes, among others.

They also gathered information on toxic waste management, marine monitoring, boating safety, wildlife enforcement, and coral reef outreach, among others.

Division of Environmental Quality spokesperson Reina Camacho said the environmental exhibit is a two-day event held from 9am-12pm.

"The environmental exposition is a series of activities DEQ is holding in celebration of Environmental Awareness Month," Camacho said.

Private sector participants include Ace Hardware, Allied Pacific Environmental Consulting, Island Apparel, Marianas Resource Conservation and Development, Microl Corp., Natural Resources Conservation Service, and No' Ka' Oi Termite and Pest Control.

Today is the last day of the environmental exposition. The public is encouraged to participate.




# OPEN HOUSE



**Friday, April 11**  
**9AM - 2PM**  
**Northern Marianas College**

For more information call 234-5498 ext. 1707

## SHIPPING SCHEDULE



**MARIANA**  
EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

| Outbound from Asia | Voyage No. | ETD Jakarta | ETD Bangkok | ETD Kelang | ETD Fuzhou | ETD Melbourne | ETD Singapore | ETD Hochiminh | ETD Busan | ETD Kobe | ETD Shanghai | ETD Auckland | ETD Manila | ETD Hongkong | ETD Kaoshiung |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| MELL SENOKO        | 002E       | 3/29 SAT    | 3/27 THU    | 3/17 MON   | 4/3 THU    | 3/18 TUE      | 3/22 SAT      | 4/4 FRI       | 3/31 MON  | 3/30 SUN | 3/25 TUE     | 3/16 SUN     | 3/31 MON   | 4/4 FRI      | 4/5 SAT       |
| ASIAN ISLAND       | 007E       | 4/5 SAT     | 4/3 THU     | 3/24 MON   | 4/10 THU   | 3/25 TUE      | 3/29 SAT      | 4/11 FRI      | 4/7 MON   | 4/6 SUN  | 4/1 TUE      | 3/23 SUN     | 4/7 MON    | 4/11 FRI     | 4/12 SAT      |
| STADT HAMBURG      | 015E       | 4/12 SAT    | 4/10 THU    | 3/31 MON   | 4/17 THU   | 4/1 TUE       | 4/5 SAT       | 4/18 FRI      | 4/14 MON  | 4/13 SUN | 4/8 TUE      | 3/30 SUN     | 4/14 MON   | 4/18 FRI     | 4/19 SAT      |
| MELL SENOKO        | 003E       | 4/19 SAT    | 4/17 THU    | 4/7 MON    | 4/24 THU   | 4/8 TUE       | 4/12 SAT      | 4/25 FRI      | 4/21 MON  | 4/20 SUN | 4/15 TUE     | 4/6 SUN      | 4/21 MON   | 4/25 FRI     | 4/26 SAT      |
| ASIAN ISLAND       | 008E       | 4/26 SAT    | 4/24 THU    | 4/14 MON   | 5/1 THU    | 4/15 TUE      | 4/19 SAT      | 5/2 FRI       | 4/28 MON  | 4/27 SUN | 4/22 TUE     | 4/13 SUN     | 4/28 MON   | 5/2 FRI      | 5/3 SAT       |
| STADT HAMBURG      | 016E       | 5/3 SAT     | 5/1 THU     | 4/21 MON   | 5/8 THU    | 4/22 TUE      | 4/26 SAT      | 5/9 FRI       | 5/5 MON   | 5/4 SUN  | 4/29 TUE     | 4/20 SUN     | 5/5 MON    | 5/9 FRI      | 5/10 SAT      |

| Inbound from Asia | Voyage No. | ETA Guam | ETA Saipn | ETA Yap  | ETA Koror | ETA GenSan | ETA Davao | ETA Cebu | ETA Hongkong | ETA Kaoshiung | ETA Busan | ETA Kobe | ETA Manila | ETA Singapore |
|-------------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|--------------|---------------|-----------|----------|------------|---------------|
| MELL SENOKO       | 002E       | 4/11 FRI | 4/12 SAT  | 4/12 SAT | SKIP      | 4/16 WED   | 4/18 FRI  | 4/19 SAT | 4/22 TUE     | 4/25 FRI      | 4/26 SAT  | 4/29 TUE | 4/29 TUE   | 4/30 WED      |
| ASIAN ISLAND      | 007E       | 4/18 FRI | 4/19 SAT  | 4/19 SAT | 4/22 TUE  | 4/23 WED   | 4/25 FRI  | 4/26 SAT | 4/29 TUE     | 5/2 FRI       | 5/3 SAT   | 5/6 TUE  | 5/6 TUE    | 5/7 WED       |
| STADT HAMBURG     | 015E       | 4/25 FRI | 4/26 SAT  | 4/26 SAT | SKIP      | 4/30 WED   | 5/2 FRI   | 5/3 SAT  | 5/6 TUE      | 5/9 FRI       | 5/10 SAT  | 5/13 TUE | 5/13 TUE   | 5/14 WED      |
| MELL SENOKO       | 003E       | 5/2 FRI  | 5/3 SAT   | 5/3 SAT  | 5/6 TUE   | 5/7 WED    | 5/9 FRI   | 5/10 SAT | 5/13 TUE     | 5/16 FRI      | 5/17 SAT  | 5/20 TUE | 5/20 TUE   | 5/21 WED      |
| ASIAN ISLAND      | 008E       | 5/9 FRI  | 5/10 SAT  | 5/10 SAT | SKIP      | 5/14 WED   | 5/16 FRI  | 5/17 SAT | 5/20 TUE     | 5/23 FRI      | 5/24 SAT  | 5/27 TUE | 5/27 TUE   | 5/28 WED      |
| STADT HAMBURG     | 016E       | 5/16 FRI | 5/17 SAT  | 5/17 SAT | 5/20 TUE  | 5/21 WED   | 5/23 FRI  | 5/24 SAT | 5/27 TUE     | 5/30 FRI      | 6/3 SAT   | 6/3 TUE  | 6/3 TUE    | 6/4 WED       |

**Weekly service. More frequent. More dependable.**

Website: [www.mariana-express.com](http://www.mariana-express.com)

**Exclusive General Agent of MELL**

For bookings, you may call our Saipan agent:

CTSI LOGISTICS,  
CTSI Building, Lower Base,  
P.O. Box 501937,  
Saipan MP 96950  
Website: [www.ctsi-logistics.com](http://www.ctsi-logistics.com)

**Edgar T. Garcia**  
Inbound  
Direct line (670) 236-2422

**Jaime P. Salazar**  
Outbound  
Direct line (670) 236-2410

**Robert Reyes**  
Sales and Marketing  
Direct line (670) 236-2403





## FOR FAILING TO PAY \$2M TO MOBIL

**CUC fuel to last only until next week**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s fuel supply for Power Plant 1 in Lower Base will last only until the end of next week as CUC was short of \$2 million to pay Mobil, its fuel supplier.

CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero told Saipan Tribune yesterday that they are continuously talking with the Fitial administration regarding assistance.

"To the credit of the administration, they are also trying to give whatever assistance they can," Guerrero said.

The Mobil tanker carrying 25,000 barrels of fuel worth \$3.5 million for one-month supply to Power Plant 1 arrived on Saipan last Thursday.

Guerrero said CUC did not have \$3.5 million and managed to pay Mobil only \$1.5 million, which represents 11,000 barrels.

"So the remaining \$2 million, we were unable to make that payment through our regular collections. We were asking for additional assistance from the administration. But they are also in a situation of their own," he said.

The executive director noted that the 11,000 barrels that were



Guerrero

will last until next week because CUC has an additional four days of fuel supply in the tank.

"We need to at least continue whatever efforts we can with

delivered to CUC would last for only 10 to 12 days at Power Plant 1.

He said the fuel supply

Mobil and the administration. We definitely need assistance. We cannot carry this with our collections right now," Guerrero said.

He said that CUC has been facing a shortfall in collections since March 3 when the power rate reverted back to 17.6 cents per kWh for residential customers.

"Even prior to that, even when we administered emergency regulations we were not recovering full cost. We were only recovering on the fuel surcharge," he added.

**San Nicolas: More business closures, terminations could happen this May**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Labor Secretary Gil San Nicolas said yesterday there could be more business closures and terminations of employees when the next 50-cent minimum wage increase takes effect next month.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, San Nicolas said the problem started since the federal minimum wage law was first implemented in July 2007, increasing the local minimum wage from \$3.05 an hour to \$3.55.

"We received a lot of letters from employers terminating their employees because they cannot pay the minimum wage that was mandated," he said.

The Secretary said they might see the same trend come May 26, 2008, if the federal minimum wage law is not amended or suspended.

"We may continue to see that. At this point, I don't know how many but I can tell you we can gather those information starting from last year when the new minimum wage took effect to present and give you some kind of an idea as to how many employers have written to the Labor director terminating their employees," he said.

Starting last year, Labor has

been getting closure notices, terminations and as simple as employers saying they cannot afford the minimum wage because of the economic situation, San Nicolas said.

The local minimum wage is currently at \$3.55 an hour. Under federal law, it must be raised gradually until it reaches federal level in 2015. The first 50-cent increase was implemented on July 25, 2007. On May 26, 2008, the minimum wage will go up to \$4.05 an hour.

"However, as I understand it from reading newspaper articles, there's a move to suspend the increase. So we don't know if that's going to happen this May or after May," he said.

However, the Secretary said, provisions under the Nonresi-

dent Workers Act require that anytime the minimum wage is raised, the wage in the employment contract will automatically be increased on the effective date of the law.

"Unless we receive another law amending such provision. We will continue to implement it," he said.

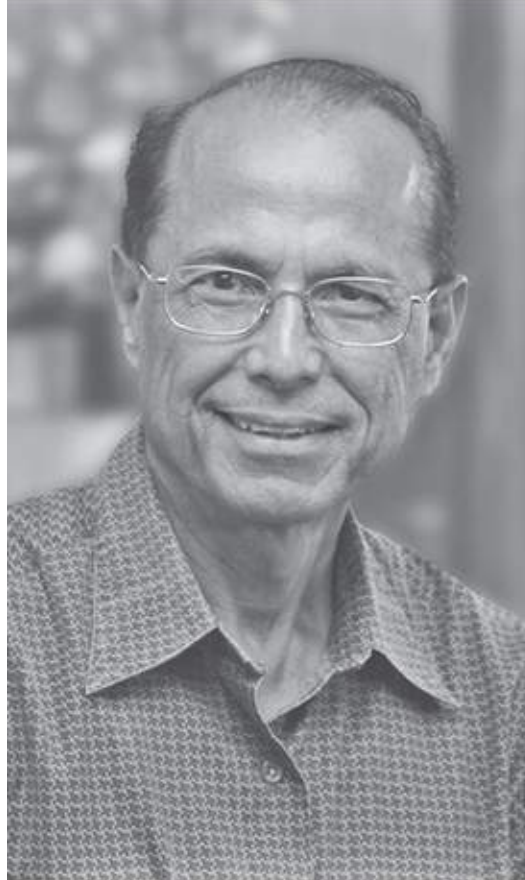
"So come that date, everyone is being informed, everyone should be aware that the new minimum wage will take effect. So they have to start paying their employees whatever that minimum may be... in this case it's \$4.05 an hour," the Labor official added.

The Fitial administration has vowed to lobby against the next scheduled increase in the local minimum wage.

**H&R Block Office New Location****H&R BLOCK®****Tax Services**

Beach Road, South Garapan  
PMB 674 Box 10003 Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 235-4728 • Fax: (670) 235-6726

Office Hours (Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> to Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>)  
9:00am to 7:30pm • Monday through Saturday  
(Other times by appointment)

**"World Class Eye Care"**

**Dr. David Khorram, MD**  
*America's Top Ophthalmologists*

**Dr. Mark Robertson, OD**  
*Magna Cum Laude*

*"From stylish glasses, to advanced eye care and high tech surgery, Marianas Eye Institute gives my family world class care."*

**- Fred Camacho**

Bank Pacific - Saipan Branch Manager

**Marianas Eye Institute**  
*"Where Technology Meets Talent"*

*"Where Technology Meets Talent"*

**235-9090**

Beach Road, Garapan  
[www.MarianasEye.com](http://www.MarianasEye.com)

One-Hour Glasses • Contacts • Medical Eye Care  
Advance Surgery & Laser • Botox

We accept: Aetna, Staywell, Moilan's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Calvos, and more.

**Godfather's Bar**  
www.godfathersbar.com  
*WHERE EVERYBODY IS FAMILY*

Thank Godfathers Its Friday  
**Every Friday Ladies Night**  
Ladies First Drink Free after 8PM

- COMPLIMENTARY HIGH SPEED WIRELESS INTERNET
- 8 TVs WITH SPORTS CHANNEL
- POOL TABLE
- BACK-UP GENERATOR POWER

**235-2333**

**ZENERGY BAND**

Live Every Thursday  
9:00PM

**THURSDAY NIGHT Miller Family Beers**  
**\$2.75 (bottle)**



**JAGER-BOMBS \$4.50**

ALL DAY ALL NIGHT  
SATURDAY



**Jägermeister**

**FRIDAY**

Live Music with  
**BIG BEATS**  
Band 8:30 pm  
**\$1.25 PIZZA SLICE**  
from 8:00pm to 12:00 midnight

**SATURDAY**

Live Music  
**JERRY & D'GIGLOS**  
Band  
9:00 pm

**Thank you USS Curts for visiting Saipan.**





# DOJ inspects juvenile detention

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention recently inspected the Kagman Juvenile Detention and Correction Facility while on island to provide technical assistance to the Criminal Justice Planning Agency.

According to Department of Community and Cultural Affairs acting Secretary Melvin Faisao, the U.S. Department of Justice representatives "were very pleased and impressed with their findings and announced during the meeting that the facility is in compliance."

DOJ representatives Carmen

Santiago Roberts and Lawrence L. Fiedler conducted the inspection of the facility's educational and intake processing, the number of staff, and the standard operating procedures in place.

Faisao said the representatives were very interested in how the department uses the federal funding it receives under the Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act.

Roberts and Fiedler acknowledged the officials of the CIPA and DCCA for adhering to the requirements such as sight and sound barriers and implementation of statistical data collection.

Faisao said the DOJ representatives advised DCCA to submit

requests for additional technical and funding assistance that may be needed to fulfill the JJDP Act within the Division of Youth Services.

CIPA's Vincent M. Camacho said the DOJ representatives had some recommendations but he has yet to receive them.

In 2005, immigration detainees were temporarily placed with juveniles at the juvenile detention facility under a memorandum of understanding with the Attorney General's Office.

Although no harm was done, the DOJ said it was not a good idea to mix these detainees with juveniles. The juvenile detention facility no longer takes in immigration detainees since then.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Memorial Day meetings set

On May 26, 2008 Memorial Day, the CNMI will be paying tribute to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have passed away.

This is to let all Memorial Day Committee members and all interested in being a part of the committee that we will begin to meet every Tuesdays at 9am starting April 8, 2008, at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill building 1364. Everyone is encouraged and invited to attend.

### KagES Cultural Day set

Kagman Elementary School is celebrating their 8th Annual Cultural Day Festivities on Saturday, April 12, 2008 from 8:00am to 3:00pm.

Kagman Elementary School Community is inviting the public to join them celebrate their 8th Cultural Day Festivities. There will be presentation of the 2008 Mr. & Miss Blue Marlin King and Queen Royal Courts, Cultural Presentations, Games, Food, and Drinks on sale.

Please come and support our school in making our 8th Annual Cultural Day Festivities a successful event.

### Chamber scholarship materials now online

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Educational Scholarship Fund information and application materials are now available at [www.saipanchamber.com](http://www.saipanchamber.com), as well as at the Chamber office in the Family Building on Garapan Street in Garapan.

This year, the Chamber will award six \$1,500 scholarships to deserving Saipan high school seniors. To download complete eligibility requirements and application materials, visit the Chamber's website.

Applications are due at the Chamber office by 5pm, Friday, April 18, 2008 and scholarships will be awarded at the Chamber's general membership meeting on June 4, 2008. Questions may be directed to the Chamber at [info@saipanchamber.com](mailto:info@saipanchamber.com) or 233-7150. (SCC)

## OPA

From Page 1

SHEFA's hiring practices. He said the agency hired two contractors where it appears that it should have hired employees.

Procurement regulations were not followed in the hiring, and the contracts did not contain any justifications.

Both contractors are CNMI government retirees and may have been "double dipping," or receiving both salary and pension benefits.

The first contractor was originally hired in September 2004 on a 90-day employment contract as an administrative officer with a pro-rated salary of \$37,000. Once

the 90-day contract expired, the contractor was hired on another deal for one year at \$37,000. OPA believes the contract was renewed year after year, as the contractor continues to report to SHEFA until now.

The other contractor had a contract dubious in several respects as it had highly unusual payment schedules. The first contract was for one year at \$35,000 a year, and the second was for two years and eight months—an unusual contract term—with a rate of \$45,000 a year.

Stark similarities were noted in the work required of both contractors.

OPA found inadequate documentation to support the pay-

ments made to some SHEFA board members. Some board members were compensated for work other than board meetings, and the board did not comply with the Boards and Commissions Reform Act of 2006.

From fiscal year 2004 through FY2006, the five SHEFA board members altogether were compensated for 273 sessions. Certain board members were compensated for "work sessions," which were review of applications and supporting documents.

OPA questioned why the board members had to be present in the "work sessions" when one of the contractors was hired for the purpose of reviewing applications and

supporting documentation.

It was also found there was poor accountability for board members' attendance for determining compensation, as board members did not always use the attendance log.

Board members were compensated for at least 15 sessions that lasted less than two hours. Under the law, board meetings are to be compensated at \$60 for every session that lasts over four hours or \$30 for sessions between two and four hours.

Further, OPA found that SHEFA has similar eligibility requirements—thought SHEFA applicants must be Saipan residents—and requires similar documentation as that required by the CNMI Scholarship Office.

OPA recommended that the Saipan and Northern Legislative Delegation consider consulting House and Senate members to determine how the two scholarship programs could be consolidated, without amending the eligibility criteria currently established in SHEFA rules and regulations.

Saipan Local Law 13-21, which established SHEFA, initially provided a continuous yearly appropriation of \$1.2 million from Saipan poker license fees. This funding was allotted in fiscal years 2004 and 2005.

In October 2004, an additional \$150,000 was appropriated for the program's operational costs. The money was

intended to cover operational expenses starting FY2004 until fully used.

In the same month, an additional \$1.2 million was appropriated for the "Saipan local scholarship account."

In October 2005, a Saipan local law increased the continuous yearly appropriation for the scholarship fund from \$1.2 million to \$3 million, and provided a non-lapsing yearly appropriation of \$200,000 for SHEFA's operational costs.

From FY2004 to FY2006, SHEFA received total allotments of \$5.83 million, of which \$5.57 million went to financial assistance and over \$250,000 went to operations (mostly personnel).

## STATUS

From Page 1

"No, not at this point," Wicker said, when asked if the proposal, now circulating informally in the Commonwealth, might cause Congress to reconsider its

imminent approval of the federal immigration bill.

"The U.S. Senate is poised to pass S. 2739 (which contains the CNMI measure), and that could happen as early as this week," Wicker said in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Wicker reiterated the Senate

committee's position that the proposed immigration reform, once enacted, "will provide a foundation for the CNMI's economic future by creating stable and sustainable labor and immigration laws."

Further, he pointed out that the CNMI immigration has taken no formal action on the

worker status legislation.

The House-approved bill imposing federal immigration policy on the Northern Marianas awaits Senate action as part of a new consolidated bill, S. 2739, introduced in the Senate last month.

The Senate is expected to take action on the bill this week.

If it passes the Senate, it immediately goes to President Bush for his signature.

The Fitial administration has lobbied the committee to remove the provision relating to the federalization of local immigration from the omnibus bill, arguing that this should be

treated as a separate bill.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has said that lumping the CNMI federalization bill with other bills and dubbing them "non-controversial" is unfair to the CNMI because it considers the federal takeover a controversial measure that should be debated separately.

## TAOTAO

From Page 1

Cruz said in a statement released yesterday that his group and foreign workers' organizations such as the Dekada Movement and MOVERS are willing to set aside their differences and

"set out a new course of direction to find solutions to this ongoing nonresident issues in our homeland for it is the right thing to do."

The first forum will be held tonight at the Kagman Community Center at 6pm; followed by San Vicente Elementary School on April 10 at 6pm, Garapan El-

ementary School on April 16 at 6pm, and the Koblerville Elementary School on April 17 at 6pm.

Community members are encouraged to share their opinions on how many years of successful work in the Commonwealth should qualify a foreign worker for longer-term residence status, thoughts on social responsibility

requirements such as basic English skills and classes in CNMI history, the kind of financial responsibility requirements that would be fair, and other factors that should be considered.

Cruz said that alien workers' groups have come to him for a dialogue and that they have expressed respect for his views.

"So let's leave what is past in the past, at least on this issue," Cruz said.

He added that it is time to find solutions to what is in the best interest for everyone in the community and the CNMI as a whole.

"Let us concentrate first on this one issue, and if we are successful here, maybe we can

proceed to all other issues affecting each and everyone in the CNMI," Cruz said.

He said the TaoTao Tano group wants to reiterate and "wish to convey, acknowledge, and recognize the many contribution the foreign guest workers had contributed [to] our homeland."

## 9

From Page 1

While the specific terms and condition of the agreement are confidential, Telesource president and CEO Nidal Z. Zayed said the parties signed a confidential settlement agreement last holiday season.

The law offices of O'Conner Berman Dotts & Baner, which represented Telesource and Telebond Insurance, and Torres Brothers, which represented the nine homeowners, were in attendance during the signing of the settlement agreement.

"Telesource has been diligently working behind the scenes to bring closure to the suffering of all the homeown-

ers. We approached all the homeowners with equitable ideas for settlement and to date only Mr. Vic Torres has accepted our overtures. We applaud him for his willingness to reach a fair and amicable settlement with Telesource. Undisclosed independent minded and prominent local individuals were also involved in the discussions, thus providing leadership and guidance. The settlement does not include any of the other defendants and by its terms prevents disclosure of the details," said Zayed in a statement issued to the media yesterday.

He also applauded the nine homeowners for their decision to settle, knowing too well that "lengthy and costly litigation will only delay the inevitable."

"No one wins and the high legal costs will only deteriorate the amounts of money available for settlement. We are hopeful that the remaining homeowners are encouraged by this development and come to the negotiating table with an open mind. The quickest and fairest resolution is no doubt in the best interest of all homeowners," added the Telesource executive.

Zayed also appealed to the rest of the Tottotville homeowners to follow the nine homeowners' example.

"This is a big day for the homeowners! I would like to recognize and congratulate all who worked hard in getting this agreement to its final stage. The approach was unequivocally fair and equitable. I think

it is time for the remaining homeowners to step forward and settle their grievances. While Telesource cannot speak for the other defendants in the case, we do pray that all parties come to their senses and sit together in an atmosphere of good faith, fairness, and equity to conclude this case in its entirety."

He also called on lawmakers who may have been critical of Telesource in the past to speak up, as he is interested in what they have to say about the settlement agreement.

"In the past, our elected official have taken [an] interest in this case and I now encourage them to step forward and not only congratulate the parties, but to encourage everyone else in the case to engage in a pos-

sible settlement process, as opposed to a costly litigation. This way we can fairly and amicably reimburse the homeowners for their damages.

"All other homeowners should take solace in the fact that Telesource and Telebond are in fact ready to reach into their pocket books and pay their fair share in order to make the homeowners whole. We are prepared to settle with all the homeowners and bring this chapter to a close: undoubtedly a guaranteed win-win situation for all, as the parties have suffered long enough," he said.

A civil lawsuit was filed by 45 homeowners living in Tottotville in 2006 against SSFM International Inc., NMHC, Telesource CNMI Inc, Telebond Insurance

Corporation, and John Doe.

In the 2006 lawsuit filing, the homeowners alleged that despite Telesource's, SSFM's, and NMHC's knowledge of the defects plaguing the project, the homeowners were not notified during construction, prior to sale, or at any time until the homeowners themselves discovered the defects.

The lawyers said SSFM claimed to have discovered many problems during the construction phase, but also claimed it couldn't do anything about it, saying it was NMHC's responsibility.

The nine homeowners who settled with Telesource and Telebond are represented by the Torres Brothers law office and the remaining are represented by the Law Offices of Edward Arriola.



# DPH receives 6,000 doses of flu vaccines

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health has received 6,000 doses of flu vaccines last week that were donated by the Joint Task Force Homeland Defense in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Immunization Program manager Mariana Sablan said the vaccines are of the same strain as the 5,000 shots that were re-

ceived and distributed in October last year.

"The first 5,000 doses were pretty much given to senior citizens, some home-bound senior citizens and government agencies," Sablan said.

She said it was enough to cover the high-risk population so the new doses that arrived will be made available to anyone who had not received their flu shots from October last

year to today.

Sablan said the vaccines are available to anyone between the ages of six months to 99 years.

She said a mass administration of the flu vaccine is still in its planning process. "In the meantime, they [flu shots] are available at private providers, the San Antonio clinic, and the immunization clinic at Public Health."

Sablan said that a little

over two years ago, the vaccine supply was very limited because of funding issues and were mostly given to those within the high-risk population such as medically confined people or people with long-term illnesses.

But now, "because have established a good relationship with these people [Joint Task Force Homeland Defense], we're able to get extra doses,"

Sablan said.

She said the Honolulu team had been "very generous" in offering some of their flu vaccines to the Pacific community.

"We just hope that the com-

munity will come forward and get it to protect themselves," Sabpan said.

A new strain of the flu vaccines is expected to arrive again this October.

## Courts director retires after 24 years

Margarita M. Palacios, Director of Courts, will be retiring after serving the CNMI Judiciary for 24 years. Palacios began her career as an Administrative Officer and was the first female Clerk of Court in 1985, serving the Superior Court until 1992.

She then transitioned to the Supreme Court, acting as Court Administrator from 1992 to 1999. In 1999, Palacios took office as the Director of Courts, again the first female appointed to the position. In April 2008, Palacios announced her intention to retire from her longstanding career.

In her years of Judicial service, Palacios has also served as the CNMI Bar Exam Administrator, and shouldered duties such as hiring and supervising staff, managing the budget, managing the facilities and court calendars, and developing and managing court security plans.

"Mrs. Palacios has demonstrated her commitment to public service and the cause of justice throughout her 24 years in the Commonwealth Judiciary," said Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan. "In her

distinguished career, she has reflected qualities that we all strive for. We will certainly miss working with her."

"On behalf of Demapan, Associate Justice Alexandro C. Castro, and Associate Justice John A. Manglona, the Judiciary applauds Palacios for her dedicated service and contribution to the people and government of the Commonwealth, and appreciates



Palacios

her untiring commitment to the maintenance of the rule of law and furtherance of justice for all," said a Judiciary statement issued yesterday.

Palacios is the oldest child born to Jacinto Babauta Mendiola and

Sylvia Benavente Mendiola.

She is married to David Sablan Palacios and their children are David Marlon, Davina Marla, Deana Sylveria, and Dean Jesse.

She is an alumni of Mount Carmel School (grades 1-9), Marianas High School (grades 10-11), Camden Rockport High School, Maine (grade 12), and University of Hawaii-Hilo, where she obtained a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in only three years.

She has been on the board of

directors and treasurer of the American Red Cross-CNMI Chapter; treasurer, CNMI Labor Day Committee; treasurer, CNMI Liberation Day Committee; executive director, Northern

Marianas Judiciary Historical Society; treasurer, Agricultural Fair; director, Saipan Swim Club; director and Treasurer, CNMI Amateur Sports Association. (PR)

## HARDT EYE CLINIC

Serving you for over 15 years



DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.

### SERVICES OFFERED:

- New patients welcome • Thorough examinations for eye disease
- Treatment for infections and injuries • Glaucoma treatment • Diabetic eye care
- Infant/children eye exams • We love kids
- Staff are fluent in Chamorro, Carolinian, Chinese, Japanese and Tagalog.

**We are open for your convenience 6 days a week.**

**Walk-ins are Welcome!**

We accept most insurance plans including: Aetna, Medicaid, Medicare, Calvo's, Netcare, TakeCare, Tricare Overseas, and Blue Cross (Federal Govt. employees)

We accept most credit cards including Visa, MasterCard and American Express

**Please call us now at 235-2030**

**We are located at Beach Road next to Megabyte.**

## Tired of Dial-Up?

Get **PTI DSL** now!  
**ALWAYS ON!**

as low as  
**\$27.45**  
(1st six months)

\*All NEW DSL Activations:  
First 6 Months of Internet  
**50% OFF!**

**FREE! with new sign-up**

PTI-Megazone  
Gaming Card  
(a must for gamers)  
with

**\$10.00**  
LOAD



- Activation: **FREE!** (Save \$40)
- Self Installation: **FREE!**

**PLUS**

PTI Dial up customers get a  
**FREE modem\* (Save \$75)**



Customer Care: 682-4PTI

www.pticom.com

wap.pticom.com

**Offer valid April 1st - May 31st**

**Value • Speed  
Everything You Need**

\*New installs only • One year contract • Some conditions apply





## NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

### BOARD VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The board of directors for the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) wishes to announce two board vacancies. Applicants can be from Tinian, Rota and Saipan.

The Council's board comprises thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms and can be renewed once only. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our community. The ideal candidates will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities. Council members are expected to engage in creative development of programs; encourage regrant applicants and recipients on their programs; and be active in the Council activities as well as the administrative requirements. Council members are unlike the usual board membership in that they are often called upon to participate in programs, develop programs; and promote programs of the Council.

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The Council's mission is to foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the Humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth.

Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually.
- Attending periodic committee meetings.
- Evaluating Council programs and activities.
- Reviewing grant applications.
- Raising funds.
- Providing input from the community.
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings relating to the humanities.
- Willing to spend from 2-4 hours per month on Council activities, particularly as Chair of a committee.

Interested residents are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Herman T. Guerrero, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, P.O. Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950 or fax them to the Council at 235-4786.** Letters and resumes must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 15, 2008. For additional information please contact the Council's Executive Director at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website site at <http://nmi.humanities.org>.

# Cap sought on QC tax benefits

By **AGNES E. DONATO**  
[agnes\\_donato@saipantribune.com](mailto:agnes_donato@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Tax benefits will be capped to the amount of the investment under a House-approved qualifying certificate bill.

Currently, a QC beneficiary may be given a range of tax benefits as determined and recommended by the board of the directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority. The range may be up to 100 percent on all CNMI taxes for up to 25 years. As a result, some beneficiaries are able to obtain a wind-fall of tax incentives that exceed their invested capital.

The House of Representatives says it is not the intent of the QC program to provide more incentives than what has been invested. House Bill 16-21, which passed the House, will cap QC benefits to the amount of invested capital.

The bill is headed to the Senate for action.

The Department of Commerce welcomed the proposed legislation, but did not explain why.

"Though the proposed amendment sounds rather business unfriendly, most especially when our Commonwealth is in dire need of financial stimulus, we feel and agree with the proposed amendment in setting a maximum amount of tax

abatements to beneficiaries of the Qualifying Certificate program," said Commerce Secretary James Santos.

For his part, CDA's acting chief executive officer Oscar Camacho predicted, based on CDA's experience with benefit caps over the years, that the bill would receive mixed responses from investors.

Camacho recalled that caps had been placed on the benefits for Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, \$14 million; World Resort Saipan, \$5.5 million, and We Manage Calls, \$2 million.

While Tinian Dynasty and World Resort did not raise issues with the caps, We Manage Calls asked that the ceiling "be removed or the company would, instead, invest in Guam," Camacho said.

He added that Tinian Dynasty

and World Resort raised no issues with the benefit caps even though they were way below their investments. The caps represented 10 percent and 22 percent of the investments, respectively. The cap originally being recommended for We Manage Calls was 100 percent of its proposed investment.

Camacho also said the problem with the QC program lies in the lack of transparency. He urged the Legislature to address this by building benefit guidelines into the QC law.

"Having a schedule of benefits built into the law will not only lessen political pressures on CDA board members, it would greatly simplify the recommendation process and, most importantly, increase transparency of the program," Camacho said.

# Marriage Encounter signs up for MMAC

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter is officially the first organization to register and pay for a booth at the upcoming Marianas March Against Cancer.

"The Marriage Encounter community is committed to supporting local families who have had to tackle this life threatening disease," said the group in a statement issued yesterday.

Members will be selling luminaries for \$5 each and Northwest Airlines raffle tickets for a roundtrip ticket for one to Asia and another ticket to the U.S. mainland.

The Marriage Encounter Community is encouraging all encountered couples to support the MMAC effort through

cash donations, luminary or NWA ticket raffle purchases, ME T-shirt sales and walking laps around the track on May 16-17 at Hopwood Junior High School.

The next ME Weekend planning meeting will take place at the residence of Charles and Cathy Cepeda on Friday, April 11, 2008 at 6:30pm in Fina Sis. Call 483-6435 for more details. "Please bring a potluck dish to share," the group said.

If you are interested in taking your marriage to the next level by registering for the weekend at the Saipan Grand Hotel on April 25-27, 2008, contact John & Vicky Mafnas at 285-8454 or [vbmafnas@yahoo.com](mailto:vbmafnas@yahoo.com). (PR)

# Europe Highlights




## Tour 2008

France, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Italy.

**June 14-29, 2008**








\$3,485<sup>00</sup>

Twin sharing/per person

**Includes**

- Economy class Manila-Europe-Manila
- Breakfast and Dinner throughout
- All hotel accommodation at 3-4 star hotels
- All tours mentioned with English speaking guides
- Transfer from Airport to hotel and vice versa
- Private long distance coach throughout Europe

Some restrictions apply.

For more information please call your travel agents, Lisa and Jie at (670) 235-3708 to 10 or e-mail us at [customerservice@centurytravelagency.com](mailto:customerservice@centurytravelagency.com) [www.centurytravelagency.com](http://www.centurytravelagency.com)

## Century Travel

AGENCY, INC.

A TanHoldings Company

*Going the Extra Mile to Serve You!*

Ground Floor CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, PMB 193 Box 10000 PPP, Saipan MP 96950



## Northern Marianas College

P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 234-5498  
Fax: (670) 234-1270 • Web site: [www.nmncnet.edu](http://www.nmncnet.edu)

### Special Board Meeting

Board of Regents Conference Room,  
NMC Saipan Campus  
Thursday, April 10, 2008  
4:00p.m

### AGENDA

- I. **Preliminary Matters**
  - A. Roll Call
- II. **Public Comments/ Miscellaneous**
- III. **New Business**
  - A. Letter to ACCJC
  - B. Ratify Request of President
  - C. Election of Treasurer
- IV. **Executive Session** - At any time during the scheduled meeting the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.
- V. **Adjournment**

/s/ Joey P. San Nicolas  
Acting Chairperson,  
Board of Regents

April 8, 2008  
Date



## SHRM scholarships now available

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management will be awarding two \$500 scholarships to eligible students in the CNMI. The purpose of the scholarship is to develop professionals by encouraging students to pursue higher education and ultimately build a pool of skilled employees to support the field of Human Resources for the CNMI. This scholarship is also offered to all eligible employees who have means to improve their skills and to provide a pathway for career development and to encourage individuals to pursue a career in human resource management.

Scholarship applications are available for pick up at the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Office of Personnel Management and Marianas Health Services. All applications must be received by May 30, 2008. For any further inquiries, contact the SHRM Scholarship Committee chair, Polly Deleon Guerrero, at (670) 664-3200/01 or email [shrmnews@yahoo.com](mailto:shrmnews@yahoo.com).

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management is the Commonwealth's foremost professional forum for discussion and training in Human Resource matters. Recognized as a Superior Merit Chapter, the CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. (SHRM)

## Rotating outages, engine repair continue

Engine repair continues at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant 1.

CUC said that Engine No. 6 was shut down yesterday for the mechanical staff to perform necessary repairs.

"As a result of these repairs, the power plant will not be capable to generate the required electrical power to adequately meet the island's demand. Therefore, load shedding is required," the utility said.

While these repairs continue, rotating power outages will continue. Traffic lights, water and wastewater services in the respective areas will also be affected.

This schedule assumes that no further generator malfunctions

| POWER OUTAGE SCHEDULE  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>8am-10am Kiya 1: Lateral</b><br>■ Joeten Commercial Complex; CUC; Joeten Grocery, PHI Pharmacy, CNMI Rev. & Taxation, Department of Public Lands, Kannat Tabla and the Standford Hotel area<br>■ Feeder 1: Individual Streets<br>■ Upper China Town and Upper MIHA in Garapan<br>■ Feeder 3: Laterals<br>■ Taro Sue area down to Gualo Rai area<br><b>10am-12pm Feeder 2: Second Partial</b><br>■ Beach Road Garapan at Kristo Rai Church, south to San Jose intersection<br><b>12pm-2pm Feeder 4: Second Partial</b><br>■ Capitol Hill to Kagman | <b>2pm-4pm Kiya 2: Second Partial</b><br>■ San Antonio, Afetna, Koblerville, Chalan Piao and portions of Chalan Kanoa<br><b>4pm-6pm Kiya 4: Second Partial</b><br>■ Susupe Court House south to portions of Chalan Kanoa<br><b>6pm-8pm Feeder 4: Second Partial</b><br>■ Capitol Hill to Kagman<br><b>8pm-10pm Feeder 2: Second Partial</b><br>■ Beach Road Garapan at Kristo Rai Church, south to San Jose intersection<br><b>10pm-12am Feeder 7: Entire Grid</b><br>■ Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi |

Source: Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

occur during these emergency repairs. Should the Second Partial outages be insufficient to

stabilize generation capacity, the First Partial and additional feeders may also be affected. Once

Engine No. 6 is brought back on line, outages will be canceled as soon as practical.

# Make it Mine for 5.99%\*

For a very limited time, get 5.99% financing for up to 60 months on the vehicle of your choice.\*



**Hyundai Veracruz**

★★★★★ Frontal & Side Crash Safety Test Rating



**Suzuki XL7**

★★★★★ Frontal & Side Crash Safety Test Rating



**Mazda3**

edmunds.com 2008 Editor's Most Wanted



**Mazda CX7**

WARDSAUTO.com 2008 Ward's 10 Best Engines



**Mazda CX9**



2008 Motor Trend SUV of the Year

Ask for us!



Ben Lizama



Gerard Benavente



Merci Sablan



Terry Bermanis



Felix Palacios

**ZERO DOWN**  
FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS!

**NADA**  
Sales Professional

SOCIETY OF AUTOMOTIVE SALES PROFESSIONALS



**TRIPLE J MOTORS**  
**TRIPLE J CAR MART**

Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm • Sat: 8am-5pm • Tel: 234-7133 • Fax: 234-3052 • Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau  
Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm • Sat: 8am-5pm • Tel: 235-5065/6 • Fax: 234-2326 • Middle Road, Chalan Kiya

\*On approved credit (O.A.C.). Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Can not be combined with any other offer. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details.





# DUI and child seat checkpoints

## New schedule for Tinian ferry

Effective yesterday, April 8, 2008, the Tinian-Saipan ferry is running on a revised schedule.

In a statement issued by the Tinian Shipping & Transportation Inc., it said the schedule changes would remain in effect until further notice.

### Mondays

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| From Tinian | From Saipan |
| 8am         | 9:30am      |
| 1pm         | 5pm         |

### Tuesdays

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| From Tinian | From Saipan     |
| 1am         | Special charter |
| 1pm         | 5pm             |

### Wednesdays

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| From Tinian | From Saipan |
| 8am         | 9:30am      |
| 1pm         | 5pm         |

### Thursdays

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| From Tinian | From Saipan |
| 1pm         | 5pm         |

### Fridays

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| From Tinian | From Saipan |
| 1pm         | 5pm         |

### Saturdays

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| From Tinian | From Saipan     |
| 1am         | Special charter |
| 1pm         | 5pm             |

### Sundays

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| From Tinian | From Saipan |
| 8am         | 9:30am      |
| 1pm         | 5pm         |

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic section will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints this Friday and Saturday, April 11-12, and a seatbelt/child seat checkpoint on April 17.

On April 11, the first setup will be on Beach Road Garapan by Liberty Plaza. This operation will start at about 8pm and will end around 9:15pm.

The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road by PTI. This will start at about 10:30pm and will end at 11:45pm.

The next day, April 12, the first setup will be on Beach Road Chalan Lau Lau by the late Dr.

Kaipat's residence. This operation will begin around 8:30pm and will end at about 9:45pm.

The second setup will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road by CUC Waterloo. This operation will begin around 10:30pm and will terminate at about 11:45pm.

On April 17, Thursday, the first setup for the Occupant Protection/Child Restraint checkpoints will be on Beach Road Chalan Lau Lau by the B&R Auto Shop. This operation will begin at 8:30am and will end around 9:45am.

The second setup will be on Beach Road, Garapan by Bank

Pacific. This operation will begin at about 3pm and will end at 4:15pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location. This activity is part of the department's efforts to deter and detect and ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

For more information, contact PO3 Juan C. Mendiola or Sgt. Thomas A. Blas at 664-9085. **(DPS)**

## Live-fire training on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office and U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam said that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training and aerial survey on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla. The scheduled dates and time are as follow:

April 6-12 from 12:01am to 12am -Live Fire Training

April 21 from 5am to 7pm -aerial survey

April 22 from 1:30pm to 6pm - aerial survey

April 23 from 8am to 11:30am -aerial survey

The general location of these activities will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla training area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by these activities, EMO is advising the public—especially

fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away or take precautionary measures from this area during the time and dates indicated.

Should you have any questions, contact the Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band 5. 205.0. **(EMO)**

## GCA presents a musical of 'treasures'

*"In this way, they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."*

— I Timothy 6:19

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal."*

—Matthew 6:19

This Friday, April 11, Grace Christian Academy presents Pirates of the "I Don't Care"-ibbe-

an, a kids musical about storing treasures in heaven.

The musical will be held at 6pm at the GCA Auditorium. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children.

Pirates of the "I Don't Care"-ibbean is all about treasure: how we are treasures in God's eyes and that treasure is to be stored up in heaven,

A company of pirates who have been cast-off by their leader, Captain Jack, spend their days without meaning,

thinking they have no value and no purpose.

Similar to Dorothy traveling back to the Land of Oz, a boy named Andy shows up unexpectedly at Johnny Bay where the pirates lived. Ultimately, Andy reminds the band of scallywags that they really do matter, and he learned a few lessons along the way, too. Narrated by two witty angels, the musical has a lot of fun rules for kids to anchor themselves, it emphasizes where true treasure lies. **(PR)**

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

APRIL 9, 2001

### CNMI to get millions for tobacco-related illnesses

All tobacco manufacturers will be required to deposit substantial amount of money to a proposed trust fund which will finance future cigarette-related medical services that may be needed by CNMI smokers. The Senate on Friday passed legislation that will require even those who are non-participants to the Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement to deposit money into the to-be established escrow fund.

### US House leaders' support in the bag

House Speaker Ben Fitial yesterday enjoyed another successful day in his visit to Washington DC, having received the support of the powerful US Committees on House Resources and on Appropriations. Mr. Fitial's second day on Capitol Hill included a meeting with Chairman James Hansen (R-UT), the new leader of the House Committee on Resources, the legislative body with jurisdiction over US territories, including CNMI.

### Informed residents beget wise voters

A measure to assist voters arrive at more informed decisions over any proposed amendments to the CNMI Constitution is in the works in the House of Representatives. On cue for the upcoming November elections, Rep. William S. Torres has introduced an initiative that seeks to make public education a mandatory requirement on any proposed changes to the local Constitution.

APRIL 9, 2002

### Hotel industry slowly picking up

The CNMI hotel industry recorded a slow but steady growth in the first three months of 2002, a positive indicator that the tourism industry is beginning to recover from the adverse effects of the September 11 attacks. The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands yesterday disclosed that hotel occupancy rate in the period covering January-March 2002 registered a slight increase from the same quarter in 2001.

### Park touts own water facility

Dissatisfied with the water supplied by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation with regards to both adequacy and potability, the American Memorial Park is planning to put up its own water facility to supply the needs of the 133-acre park, using federal fund amounting to about \$1 million. This was disclosed by Chuck Sayon, the park's site manager and ranger. The park is an area controlled by the National Park Service, an agency under the U.S. Department of the Interior.

### Benavente forms 702 negotiating committee

Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente said he is now forming a five-man committee that would sit down with him during the upcoming Covenant 702 negotiations with the federal government. Besides himself, another member of the committee is Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio, who urged the Lt. Governor Friday that they sit down as soon as possible to map out strategies and possible topics that would be taken up during the negotiations.

APRIL 9, 2003

### NMI-wide briefing on SARS launched

The CNMI Department of Public Health, alarmed over the threat of SARS, posts an advisory at the hospital entrance. CNMI public health officials flew to Rota yesterday to hold medical and logistical briefings about the fast-spreading deadly disease known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS. "They are holding these briefings on Rota and Tinian to educate and best prepare our communities," said acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente yesterday.

### Beyond raising the tax burden of consumers

Wrap your head around this: There are several ways to stimulate the economy without raising taxes—taxes that inevitably hurt consumers who, sooner or later, absorb these additional tax burdens. Mindful of this economic truism, the nation's governors have put forward several economic stimulus packages that focus more on how to prime the pump and get their respective economies going without going through the pockets and wallets of their citizens.



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: 03/31/2008

Closing Date: 04/11/2008

| POSITION                                 | DIVISION/SECTION          | JVA NO. |
|--|---------------------------|---------|
| Trades Assistant                         | Power Generation          | 08-011  |
| Trades Technician                        | Power Generation          | 08-012  |
| Accounting Technician (Customer Service) | Administration/F&B        | 08-013  |
| Meter Reader                             | Administration/Billing    | 08-014  |
| Compliance Technician                    | Administration/Compliance | 08-015  |
| Accounting Assistant (Cashier)           | Accounting/Treasury       | 08-016  |

LOCATION: COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION, SAIPAN

For detailed information on the duties and responsibilities and the minimum qualifications, please visit the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Room 13.

CUC IS EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



# 2008 Environmental Expo



Elementary school students learn how to choose food using the food guide pyramid for healthy food choices at the NMC CREES booth.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Students were taught how to take care of marine resources at the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife booth.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Students touch the bulb to feel the heat difference coming from an energy saving bulb and the standard incandescent bulb at the CNMI Energy Division booth during the DEQ's Environmental Expo 2008.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Students check for bacteria in the water at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. laboratory booth.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Students look at the readings on the seismograph monitoring equipment at the Emergency Management Office booth.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

## EARN DOUBLE STAMPS SO FAST WITH YOUR LUCKY 7 PASSPORT!

*It's like magic!*



\*Not valid with any other promotional offer. For a limited time only.

**Every time you gas...** fill-up your Lucky 7 Passport during Shell's Double Stamp Days and earn your \$7 bonus reward **TWICE AS FAST** when you fill your vehicle at any Shell station.



**made to move** ➔





# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 100

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### No more excuses for torture

Sometimes it's best to let an author's words speak for themselves. The following is from a March 2003 Justice Department memorandum on the legal standards governing military interrogations of terrorism suspects: "As we have made clear in other opinions involving the war against al Qaeda, the Nation's right to self-defense has been triggered by the events of September 11. If a government defendant were to harm an enemy combatant during an interrogation in a manner that might arguably violate a criminal prohibition, he would be doing so in order to prevent further attacks on the United States by the al Qaeda terrorist network. In that case, we believe that he could argue that the executive branch's constitutional authority to protect the nation from attack justified his actions. This national and international version of the right to self-defense could supplement and bolster the government defendant's individual right."

Translation: A U.S. interrogator could claim "national self-defense" if he was charged with the torture of a detainee, never mind the U.S. law against torture or international treaties prohibiting cruel, degrading or inhuman treatment of prisoners. The memo argues that interrogators acting under the president's authority could not be held accountable for mistreatment of detainees because the president is essentially above the law. Quoting from a 1937 Supreme Court decision, the memo claims that "applying general laws" against interrogators who use rough tactics on terrorism suspects would be as absurd as "the application of a speed law to a policeman pursuing a criminal or the driver of a fire engine responding to an alarm." And almost as an afterthought, the memo declares in Footnote 10 that the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against unreasonable searches and seizures "had no application to domestic military operations."

These and other legal distortions were written by John C. Yoo, a former deputy in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel. The existence of the memo has long been known, and it was rescinded in December 2003. But it is nonetheless shocking to read what is an amalgamation of legal extremism and sloppy reasoning clearly meant to provide the president with justification to violate domestic and international prohibitions against torture.

The department has privately shared some memos deemed too sensitive for public consumption, including this one, with key lawmakers; there are ongoing discussions about whether other memos may also be made available in their entirety to those on Capitol Hill. This is a positive development, but it must yield results. Best of all would be the public release, whenever possible, of such memos, allowing members of the public to scrutinize them and freeing members of the administration and lawmakers to openly debate their merits. There can be no more excuses for the perpetuation of abominable legal doctrines that twist the law, tarnish the country's reputation and put at risk U.S. personnel, who may now be more vulnerable to torture because their government once claimed to find a way legally to excuse it.

© 2008, The Washington Post



## Welcome USS Curts

### Supremes say figure it out yourselves

Well, the day was appropriate; April 1st marked the day the Supreme Court declined to answer teacher representative succession questions posed by Bennett (ex-rep and wannabe new temporary rep) and Benavente (ex-board chair). The Supreme Court ruled that their request did not meet the constitutional requirements for answering official questions, as they were both on the same side of the issue.

After all this bickering and interference back and forth from several sides, maybe the teachers can go back to deciding for themselves who they want to represent them. Maybe they already have. Maybe not. If not, one would think a ballot sent around to each teacher to be marked and returned sealed when they pick up their pay checks, or by such and such a date, would solve the issue once and for all. The newly elected rep could then begin attending School board meetings to make sure PSS teachers have some input there.

■ ■ ■

### Glowing report

On a positive note, a CUC line crew working in the area, when asked to, replaced the light sensitive switch on the street light near my house. Now it shuts off during daylight hours as it is supposed to. Before, it was lit all the time. This is one small step toward saving some power currently being paid by all of us CUC customers as "ine losses" or "public use."

I'm sure that light burning 24/7 chewed up a lot of kilowatt hours. A reader told me "if it's the typical 175 watt street light, @ 24/7 would be 126kWh per month. At .41/kWh, that's \$51/month, or \$1.72/day." I'm not sure of those figures but it sounds reasonable.

Six hundred twelve dollars per year for just one street light means we should all keep our eyes peeled for lights burning in the daytime and report them when seen. We can save half that amount by having them fixed to light up only at night. The CUC crews are happy to repair them, as long as they have the parts and are close by.

I'm betting there are lots more of them out there. Now that I am looking, I have noticed several already.

Thanks CUC crew!

■ ■ ■

### More equal than others

A few days ago in the Philippines the elected President of Palau was asked to submit to a standard pre-boarding security check along with his fellow passengers. He was flying on a public flight back to Palau along with some tourists and his fellow countrymen. He reportedly took umbrage and left the airport in a huff rather than be

## SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes *Sour Grapes* when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: [bbateman@pticom.com](mailto:bbateman@pticom.com); Blog: <http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/>



security screened and have his baggage scrutinized.

It brings up some interesting questions. For one, many cultures including many from Micronesia, Asia and SE Asia are rooted in showing respect to elders, hereditary leaders and key family members. This respect is as integrated as breathing or eating and most would not think of ignoring it. But does that unquestioning respect extend to elected political leaders? Good ones, bad ones, indifferent ones? Would that respect extend to all political leaders from all countries no matter how bloodthirsty or avaricious? Should that universal respect be shown by everyone from any other country for any leader of any other country? Hardly.

On the other hand, why would it be disrespectful to be checked just like all the other passengers he was about to ride with? How so? Should he, or any other elected leader be above the law? Are they saying, "Sorry citizens, we dignitaries don't have to put up with the rude and mostly useless security screening WE bureaucrats put in place. That stuff is designed to give you citizens a feel-good sense of security but is beneath the dignity of us higher up politicians." I don't think they would want to put it that way. I don't think most of them feel that way, including the President of Palau.

If security exceptions are to be made, where do they stop? What about the President of Continental Airlines? When he flies public instead of his own corporate jet, should he be exempted from security checks? What about the President of Exxon, or Enron or Ed's Barber shop? The former two are, or were, much bigger deals than the Republic of Palau (or Brazil or most other countries for that matter), the latter one differs only in degree. Should the president of Ed's Barber Shop not be security screened because he is a president? Huge multinational companies have more workers and represent far more wealth and power than a lot of independent countries. Should their presidents all be exempt?

See WELCOME on next page



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Understanding the game in 2 easy lessons

*The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!*

There are only two questions and their answers that are of ultimate importance to every member of the human race. Those questions are: *How shall I survive?* and *Why am I here?*

“How shall I survive?” is the most basic question. Every decision a person makes is in the interest of his or her survival—or, more accurately, what they perceive is required for that survival.

“Why am I here?” is a more advanced question. Once a person has adequately answered the survival question, and secured some workable means for survival, they typically start to ask more advanced questions about life and its purpose, and eventually get to question #2. It is that yearning for more meaning in one’s life that encourages advanced, abstract thought, liberates minds, and moves societies upward towards enlightenment and empowerment. In other words, people and societies prosper only after they stop worrying about basic survival.

It is my contention, and the basis of this essay, that people can best survive when they are free. Freedom, therefore, is the most important imperative. So what is freedom?

There are only two basic freedoms of real value: a place to exist, and the time to do as you please. In other words, without a place to call your own on which you can create and cultivate the means for your survival (i.e. land), you are never truly free. And without control of your time to do the things you desire, you are never truly free.

A “place to call your own” means a place that you own free and clear and that does not require payment of any kind in order for you to exist on it. You are not free if you have to pay someone for a place to exist.

The “time to do as you please” means the time to devote to any exercise or endeavor you choose without interference, obligation or contract. You are not free if someone else is in control of your time.

That is all you need in order to be free, survive, and prosper: a place to call your own, and the time to do as you please. (This supposes, of course, that at least some of that land and/or at least some of your time is devoted to creating sustenance in the form of food to eat, and shelter in the form of protection from the elements as required.)

Everything else you have been led to believe is necessary for your happiness and freedom is contrived. Cell phones, cars, refrigerators, stereos, beds and television are not necessary for survival, happiness, peace of mind, contentment or true prosperity. Now, don’t get me wrong. They provide convenience for sure, but they are not ultimately necessary for happiness and prosperity.

**Game 1**

It is an unfortunate fact of life that many people today are born into families and situations with no true wealth and no freedom. Their parents have no place and no time to call their own. Perhaps someone in their family tree long ago, traded true value for imaginary value, and now every generation thereafter is paying the price. At some time in the past, someone sold their land—real value—or moved away from a self-sufficient lifestyle to work for someone else. They, in effect, handed their survival over to someone else.

Today, in a turn of events that can only be described as insidious, other people in control are essentially selling this survival back to you. Yes, you are being charged for the right to survive. Survival, in other words, has become a commodity—a product. You

pay monthly for a place to call your own, and you trade your most valuable possession—your time—for the money you need to pay for this place to exist.

Once your survival has become a product that you need to purchase with the imaginary wealth you (or your parents) traded your real wealth for, then you become locked into a loop, and compelled to spend your time devising means for accumulating more of this imaginary wealth in order to simply survive.

**Game 2**

At the same time, there is another insidious game being played. It’s called the game of the artificial need.

Through the power of marketing, people are being convinced that they need certain things in order to be happy. This need is then filled with unnecessary and harmful things. These harmful things invariably cause dependence, addiction and illness. The “Cure” for the harm these unnecessary things cause is then sold in the form of more unnecessary and harmful things, and the trap becomes self-perpetuating.

You are trapped in a game of survival with no real winner. This is what we call the rat race.

The dictionary defines the rat race as “*the ruthless, competitive struggle for success in work, etc...*”, but it’s really called a rat race because, much like any race among rats staged in a maze, a treadmill or laboratory, there is someone else in control for whose benefit the race is really being run, and so, no rat ever really wins.

**Mastering the Game**

Now, don’t despair. On an individual level, it is possible to develop a strategy for wealth that meets your needs. In other words, this game of survival can be mastered. There are great books on how to master the game. And based on the rules of the game, it can be mastered as it is. The key concept, however, is that it can be ‘mastered,’ but not won. Rats can master the race, but they never really win.

Many generations have bought into the game and more and more people are learning how to master it. People become wealthy and prosperous. So, then, what’s the flaw?

The flaw is twofold. First, in this no-win rat race to accumulate the means for your survival, the money you are chasing is imagined wealth. It is not real. And unfortunately, you can never fully replace real wealth (that you lost or gave away) with imagined wealth.

Second, this game of “survival and success” as currently defined, and the accumulation of imagined wealth to satisfy imagined needs is usually at the cost of, usually at odds with, and usually at the expense of the purity of the environment, the rights and freedoms of others, and a functional understanding of reality. So, on a group level—on the level of societal progress—the world devolves. In other words, the world does not get any better when we play the game the way it is.

In still other words, there is a cost to mastering the game the way that it has been developed: The earth gets depleted. The rights and freedoms of others are abridged. People develop dysfunctional interpretations and responses to life, and the cycle of devolution continues.

So mastering the game is flawed activity if...

If you are committed to saving the world; if you are committed to helping others to the ultimate degree; if you are devoted to the welfare of others; if you are intent on preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations; if you are dedicated to justice for all regardless of race or affiliation; if you are about honoring the human spirit; if you are in favor of human rights for the planet’s people; if you are on a quest for a workable understanding of the world and what happens in it, then you realize that the game the way it is needs fixing. Understand this and you are halfway towards real freedom and empowerment.

**The New Game**

Yes, if the world is to be saved; if global warming is to be prioritized and addressed; if people are to live disease-free lives; if the rights

## THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT *Creating economic success for the CNMI*

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE  
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

and freedoms of all on the planet are to be honored and respected; if we are to develop a workable understanding of ourselves, of others, and of reality to be able to make better choices, then there must be a change in the way people currently think, communicate and act. People need to be awakened to a specific set of new ideas that will facilitate these changes. People need to see beyond the deceptions that currently skew their perceptions. People need to be able to think critically and analyze their worlds and make choices that are in their own best interests and the interest of global survival and prosperity. They need to play a new game.

But before we can move toward those ideals, we must all be on the same page. I suggest to you, therefore, as a starting point in the practical matter of forming groups and organizations and movements with the purpose of effecting real, lasting and positive change, that you have your members sign a simple agreement that states the following: (This represents just a preliminary working of the basic contract for change.)

*I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name here), in making suggestions, proposals and decisions on behalf of this organization and movement and its stated goals, put these commitments above all else:*

*[ ] I am committed to the creation and maintenance of a cleaner, sustainable environment now.*

*[ ] I am committed to creating optimal health for myself and others according to concepts that do not violate nature’s laws.*

*[ ] I believe in the equal rights of all, and commit that no one’s rights will be abridged for my own interests.*

*[ ] I am willing to question my current beliefs to arrive at a working, possibly new understanding of reality.*

Just think how much debate could be avoided if we all started our discussions from this “same page” of agreement. What do you think?

For more tips on acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit [www.passionprofit.com](http://www.passionprofit.com)!

■ ■ ■

**SaipanLiving Update:**

Visit the SaipanLiving.com website to see our growing list of actual questions being asked by people all over the world who want to know what life on Saipan is really like! Choose one to answer to help with our launch!

With your help, we can create some compelling content, get the site in the top ten, and show the world a broader picture of what life is like in our little piece of paradise, beyond the sensational headlines.

Email me your perspective at [questions@saipanliving.com](mailto:questions@saipanliving.com). If you don’t have an email account, you can fax it to my attention at 212 658 9232.

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

*Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt’s philosophy and formula visit [www.saipanpreneur.com](http://www.saipanpreneur.com) and [www.passionprofit.com](http://www.passionprofit.com).*

## WELCOME

From Page 10

Perhaps perceived disrespect is not why he elected to leave the airport instead of having himself frisked. He had just met with the President of the Philippines (not exactly universally respected by her constituents) who, with her family, is currently accused of some pretty shady cash-under-the-table business dealings. Maybe it had less to do with disrespect than with not

wanting his carry-on baggage checked. Maybe he was just having a bad day. Maybe he would rather ride on the later proffered private jet back home with a nice bottle of free champagne. Maybe he forgot his toothbrush.

Truthfully, I don’t see any disrespect in Continental’s actions at the Manila airport. I don’t think it is any different to perform security checks on a President, or a Governor than on a Mr. or a Mrs. or anybody else, or even a nobody else. What about you?

Now if they want to exempt me from

further checks the next time I fly, well then I’m all for it! (☺)

■ ■ ■

**Make mine neat, no rocks**

Thanks to a survey done earlier and reported back to maritime authorities and thanks to recent additional work accomplished in our shipping channel by the officers and crew of the USNS *Safeguard*, U.S. Navy ships and other large vessels can once again enter our harbor safely.

Most recently docked and still in port today is the U.S. Navy frigate *Curts*.

Welcome to Saipan to her officers and crew!

Each of these R&R visits gives our military men and women a much needed rest and introduces them to the wonders of Saipan and the CNMI. Much need revenue comes to our shores but more importantly, we send out ambassadors who tell friends family, neighbors and fellow personnel on other ships and shore stations what a great place the CNMI is for liberty, rest and relaxation. All who come here for liberty enjoy the diverse culture, friendly

residents, great food and world class sporting activities found here. US military personnel are always welcomed with open arms here and they appreciate that. They like the diving, the golf, the entertainment and the weather. We like them. Please come again.

■ ■ ■

**Quote of the week:** The long unmeasured pulse of time moves everything. There is nothing hidden that it cannot bring to light, nothing once known that may not become unknown.






—Sophocles (496 - 406 BC)



Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   | SUNDAY  |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers.<br>Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.             | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.<br>East winds 15 to 20 mph.                  | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.  | Partly cloudy with isolated showers.   | Partly cloudy with isolated showers.  |
| ▲83° ▼75°   | ▲82° ▼75°   | ▲83° ▼75°   | ▲82° ▼75°  | ▲82° ▼75°   |

### Micronesia

|               |               |         |
|---------------|---------------|---------|
| Guam and Rota | Cloudy        | ▲85 ▼76 |
| Palau         | Cloudy        | ▲86 ▼77 |
| Yap           | Partly Sunny  | ▲87 ▼77 |
| Chuuk         | Showers       | ▲88 ▼78 |
| Pohnpei       | Thunderstorms | ▲85 ▼73 |
| Kosrae        | Cloudy        | ▲89 ▼77 |
| Majuro        | Mostly Cloudy | ▲85 ▼75 |

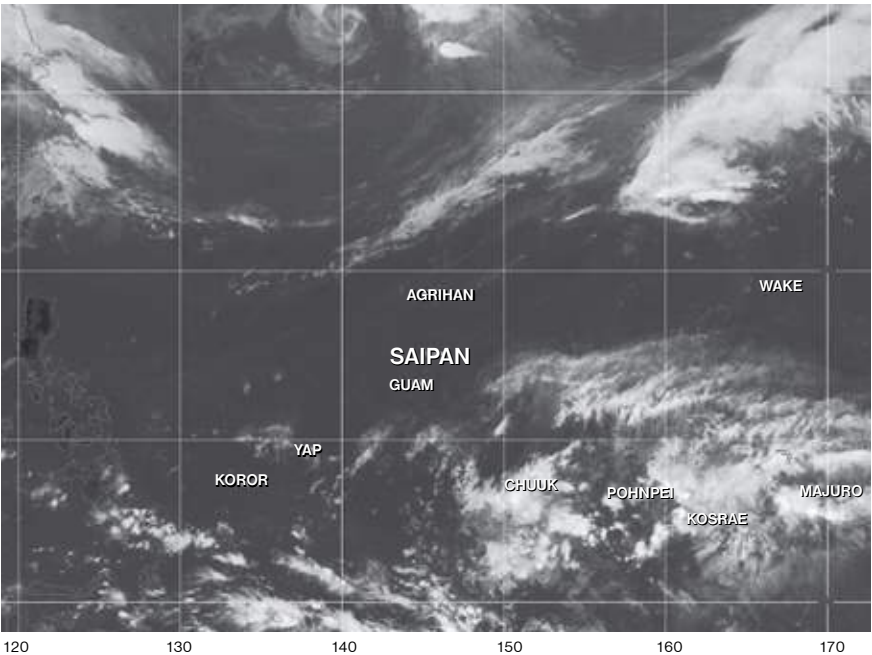
### Around The Globe

|                |               |         |
|----------------|---------------|---------|
| Auckland       | Sunny         | ▲65 ▼52 |
| Beijing        | Rain          | ▲61 ▼52 |
| Hong Kong      | Cloudy        | ▲84 ▼77 |
| Honolulu       | Partly Sunny  | ▲80 ▼72 |
| London         | Showers       | ▲50 ▼37 |
| Los Angeles    | Mostly Sunny  | ▲68 ▼53 |
| Manila         | Partly Sunny  | ▲95 ▼76 |
| Melbourne      | Mostly Cloudy | ▲70 ▼58 |
| Miami          | Partly Sunny  | ▲83 ▼71 |
| New York       | Partly Sunny  | ▲61 ▼46 |
| Osaka          | Partly Sunny  | ▲63 ▼53 |
| Paris          | Cloudy        | ▲52 ▼41 |
| Pusan          | Cloudy        | ▲57 ▼55 |
| Rome           | Showers       | ▲69 ▼57 |
| Salem          | Cloudy        | ▲53 ▼38 |
| San Francisco  | Mostly Sunny  | ▲63 ▼48 |
| Seoul          | Mostly Cloudy | ▲63 ▼50 |
| Tokyo          | Showers       | ▲58 ▼49 |
| Washington, DC | Partly Sunny  | ▲62 ▼49 |

### Tides

| Saipan Harbor |            |          |
|---------------|------------|----------|
| 3:50AM Today  | Low Tide:  | 1.0 Feet |
| 8:57AM Today  | High Tide: | 2.0 Feet |
| 4:14PM Today  | Low Tide:  | 0.5 Feet |
| 11:14PM Today | High Tide: | 1.9 Feet |

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2008  
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trough of low pressure is centered northeast of the Marianas near 25N157E. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers associated with this system are found along 25N and northward from 148E to 170E. A near-equatorial trough stretches from 3N130E to EQ147E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen within 70 miles of the trough axis south of Koror and Yap. A broad low-level circulation is centered east of the near-equatorial trough near 5N147E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are forming over Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae between 2N and 10N from 149E to 166E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Kwajalein and Majuro between 4N and 9N from 166E to 180.

### Sunrise/Sunset

|          |        |        |
|----------|--------|--------|
| Today    | 6:07AM | 6:31PM |
| Thursday | 6:06AM | 6:31PM |
| Friday   | 6:06AM | 6:31PM |
| Saturday | 6:05AM | 6:31PM |
| Sunday   | 6:04AM | 6:31PM |

### Moonrise/Moonset

|          |         |         |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today    | 8:17AM  | 9:49PM  |
| Thursday | 9:17AM  | 10:55PM |
| Friday   | 10:20AM | 11:58PM |
| Saturday | 11:24AM |         |
| Sunday   | 12:26PM | 12:54AM |

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

#### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website: [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

| DEPARTURES   | ARRIVALS   |
|--|--|
| <b>Saipan-Rota</b><br>CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7  | <b>Rota-Saipan</b><br>CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6  |
| <b>Saipan-Guam</b><br>CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily<br>CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6<br>CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota<br>CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily<br>CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily<br>CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily<br>CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily | <b>Guam-Saipan</b><br>CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily<br>CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily<br>CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota<br>CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7<br>CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily<br>CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily<br>CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily |
| <b>Saipan-Narita</b><br>NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya<br><br>NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily  | <b>Narita-Saipan</b><br>NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily<br>NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya   |
| <b>Saipan-Osaka</b><br>NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily  | <b>Osaka-Saipan</b><br>NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily   |
| <b>Saipan-Nagoya</b><br>NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily  | <b>Nagoya-Saipan</b><br>NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily   |
| <b>Saipan-Manila</b><br>CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6<br>CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3   | <b>Manila-Saipan</b><br>CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6<br>CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3  |
| <b>Saipan-Seoul</b><br>OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1<br>OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7<br>OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7  | <b>Seoul-Saipan</b><br>OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7<br>OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7<br>OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6  |
| <b>Saipan-Busan</b><br>OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7  | <b>Busan-Saipan</b><br>OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7  |
| <b>Guam-Manila</b><br>CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror<br><br>CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6<br>CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7<br>CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror<br>CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily<br>PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7                     | <b>Manila-Guam</b><br>CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7<br>CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6<br>CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap<br>CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror<br>CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily<br>PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7               |
| <b>Saipan-Guanzhou</b><br>CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6  | <b>Guanzhou-Saipan</b><br>CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5  |
| <b>Guam-Hongkong</b><br>CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5   | <b>Hongkong-Guam</b><br>CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5  |
| <b>Guam-Rota</b><br>CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6  | <b>Rota-Guam</b><br>CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7   |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline              | ETD     | ETA     | Frequency | Airline  | ETD     | ETA     | Frequency |
|----------------------|---------|---------|-----------|--|---------|---------|-----------|
| <b>Guam-Rota</b>     |         |         |           | FRE 113  | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily     |
| FRE 100              | 7:00am  | 7:30am  | Daily     | FRE 115  | 1:00pm  | 1:10pm  | Daily     |
| <b>Rota-Saipan</b>   |         |         |           | FRE 117  | 2:30pm  | 2:40pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 100              | 7:50am  | 8:20am  | Daily     | FRE 119  | 4:00pm  | 4:10pm  | Daily     |
| <b>Saipan-Rota</b>   |         |         |           | FRE 121  | 4:40pm  | 4:50pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 200              | 9:00am  | 9:30am  | Daily     | FRE 123 *  | 5:40pm  | 5:50pm  | Daily     |
| <b>Rota-Guam</b>     |         |         |           | FRE 125 *  | 6:00pm  | 6:10pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 200              | 9:50am  | 10:15am | Daily     | <b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b> |         |         |           |
| <b>Guam-Rota</b>     |         |         |           | FRE 102  | 7:05am  | 7:15am  | Daily     |
| FRE 300              | 4:00pm  | 4:30pm  | Daily     | FRE 104  | 7:50am  | 8:00am  | Daily     |
| <b>Rota-Saipan</b>   |         |         |           | FRE 106**  | 8:20am  | 8:30am  | Daily     |
| FRE 300              | 4:50pm  | 5:25pm  | Daily     | FRE 108**  | 9:00am  | 9:10am  | Daily     |
| <b>Saipan-Rota</b>   |         |         |           | FRE 110  | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily     |
| FRE 400              | 6:00pm  | 6:30pm  | Daily     | FRE 112  | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily     |
| <b>Rota-Guam</b>     |         |         |           | FRE 114  | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily     |
| FRE 400              | 6:45pm  | 7:15pm  | Daily     | FRE 116  | 1:30pm  | 1:40pm  | Daily     |
| <b>Saipan-Tinian</b> |         |         |           | FRE 118  | 2:50pm  | 3:00pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 101              | 6:45am  | 6:55am  | Daily     | FRE 120**  | 4:20pm  | 4:30pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 103              | 7:30am  | 7:40am  | Daily     | FRE 122**  | 5:00pm  | 5:10pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 105              | 8:00am  | 8:10am  | Daily     | FRE 124  | 6:05pm  | 6:15pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 107              | 8:40am  | 8:50am  | Daily     | FRE 126  | 6:20pm  | 6:30pm  | Daily     |
| FRE 109*             | 9:10am  | 9:20am  | Daily     |  |         |         |           |
| FRE 111*             | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily     |  |         |         |           |



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



## Letter to the Editor

## Demand accountability, transparency!

Please consider this observation from Lewis Carroll in *Through the Looking-Glass* as you ponder the workings and crisis (mis)management charades being imposed on you by the friendly folks at Government Central on Capital Hill. To wit: "If I had a world of my own, everything would be nonsense. Nothing would be what it is because everything would be what it isn't. And contrary-wise, what it is it wouldn't be, and what it wouldn't be, it would. You see?"—Tweedledee and Tweedledum

With that thought provoking tautology to inform you, please also consider another small revelation: The CNMI economy is in trouble. Okay, so we already knew that. But it's true, the economy is in the doldrums, right? No! Worse! Well then, the economy has fallen into general recession. Oh, no! Worse still! The truth is that we're teetering on the brink of a dead-on, free fall depression, ladies and gentlemen! Of course, if you're a creative thinker, our personal and public financial woes could all be viewed differently. It could be that there's really nothing wrong with the CNMI economy that a little MORE recession wouldn't fix. Yes, just a little more recession! What this economy may just need is a few more unemployed professional

politicians. Feel free to pick your favorites and tell them that personally, too, if you like. This is a democratic society, after all, isn't it? Your voice counts, doesn't it? In reality, the urgent need to achieve an economic fix in the CNMI is not a joke and it's not simple. Repairing the damage in progress and the damage done in previous years by previous administrations and by a succession of ineffectual (yes, Tweedledee and Tweedledum again) legislatures will be a Herculean undertaking. But it has to start in earnest. And it has to start NOW.

The nasty, bald, crying truth is that it's later than you think and the clock is ticking loud and fast. The Commonwealth faces an outright economic meltdown (a China syndrome of many variations...and the pun IS intended) with potential collapse of critical services, including its public schools and its mainstay retirement system, if the present course of tweedledee-tweedledum (mis)management and top-tier malfeasance cannot be stemmed. Mark my words. Furloughs with ALL pay suspended for hundreds of your children's teachers has already been voted by the Board of Education and will soon take effect. The CNMI Retirement Fund has disallowed processing of future retirement for hundreds, if not thousands,

of qualified potential future retirees and will withhold ALL of their earned money from them because the government that was supposed to have paid its share of fund costs has abandoned them. These are facts.

To have a real beginning, and to have any chance of a turnaround that will stem a full economic collapse, we will need first to establish TRUE transparency in government at EVERY level. The men and women who hold the reins of power in the CNMI must be compelled to be thoroughly accountable, responsible, reasonable, ethical and honest. Above all, they must yield to your demand that they serve the interests of the entire public first rather than serving their own comfort, convenience, ambitions and egos, not to mention the well-shielded personal bottom lines of some. This hope is in the hands of a conscientious, vocal, adamant, activist public. It lies with you. It is your responsibility...OUR responsibility...to see that any self-absorbed and shameless politicians you identify in the Legislature and in the administration unlock the doors of covert maneuvering, that their feet are held to the fire, that their noses are held to the grindstone, that the light of public scrutiny shines intensely on them at all times and that

See DEMAND on Page 14



*Saipan Tribune*, the CNMI's first daily newspaper, is looking for fresh talent to join our team.

## REPORTER

- At least two years' experience writing for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must know how to write hard news, features, and business stories;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, analytical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Computer literate and with driver's license.

## SPORTS REPORTER

- At least two years' experience covering sports for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be willing to put in flexible work hours;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Computer literate and with driver's license;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be passionate about sports.

## ART DIRECTOR

- At least five years' experience in the publishing industry or related field;
- Must have at least two years' supervisory experience in the field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have extensive knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

## GRAPHIC ARTIST

- At least three years' experience in the publishing business or related field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have basic knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

## EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- At least high school graduate;
- Typing speed of at least 40 words per minute
- Must have extensive experience using Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint);
- Must be familiar with Mac computers (knowledge in PC is a plus);
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, and a team player.

If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, submit your most recent résumé and portfolio to the *Saipan Tribune*, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan. Or e-mail it to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). On-island hires preferred.

*Hafa Adai!*  
**Saipan Tribune**  
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai  
Saipan, MP 96950



## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS DPWOS-RFQ-019

### 702 CIP PROJECT MANAGERS FOR SAIPAN, TINIAN, AND ROTA

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through Secretary of the Department of Public Works, are soliciting sealed Statements of Qualifications from qualified individuals to serve as one of three 702 CIP Project Manager for each CNMI District (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota)

The Project Manager will be retained as an independent contractor under the general supervision of the Secretary of Public Works or his designee. The Project Manager will be responsible for the coordination and management of a designated number of Architectural and Engineering (A/E) design contracts, Construction Management or Construction in Administration contracts, as well as Construction Contracts for new facilities and/or the renovation of existing facilities in the CNMI. Project management will be limited to those capital improvement projects that funded under Section 702 of the Covenant between the United States and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Further, the selected individual(s) or Firms(s) shall agree not to bid and/or propose in any future Architectural & Engineering and/or Construction Management services funded with the 702 Covenant funds, in whole or in part, while on an active contract with the Contracting Officer.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 3-103 of the regulations. Preference is available to local proposers in accordance with Public Law 15-95.

The **REVISED** Scope of Work will be available on or after, **April 9, 2008** at the DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Building, Saipan. No Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for this RFQ. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (**US\$50.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Building, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **April 24, 2008**.

Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following technical merit:

1. **Past experience as a Project Manager – 40%**
2. **Current workload of the individual and ability to commit to the scope of work – 40%**
3. **Proposed project team organized and individual qualifications including inspectors to participate as part of the team (15%)**
4. **References (5%)** – Give the name, address, and telephone hone number of references for a minimum of four (4) projects stated in your Past Experience

Price is also a factor that will be considered in addition to the technical merit of proposals. As proposals become more equal in technical merit the importance of price will increase. The government reserves the right to make an award to other than the lowest priced proposal.

Discussions will be held with those determined reasonably susceptible of being selected for award of a contract for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Those short-listed proposers will be afforded an opportunity to submit a "best and final offer". Each CNMI District (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota) will be awarded a Project Manager based on the complexity of projects assigned and qualification evaluation of each proposer. The successful proposers may be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPWOS-RFQ-019"**. Proposers may indicate the preferred district he/she prefers to be a PM, however, technical merit evaluation ratings shall supersede such preference. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed Statements of Qualifications must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 30, 2008**. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their statements by submitting a Notice of Intent to Submit Statements of Qualifications. Notices of Intent to Submit Statements of Qualifications must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 30, 2008** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 30, 2008** AND must be received no later than **May 9, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

This project is funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA) with local matching fund, provided by the CNMI Government. Contract award is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

All responses to this RFQ should take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG  
Acting, Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director, Procurement & Supply



## Letters to the Editor

# Vacillation: Old and new

There's healthy discussion over indigenous land and who can vote for its disposition. It's a tale of the vacillation between the old versus new rules of the game used interchangeably, whichever is convenient.

Some simply refuse to acknowledge the change in the rules of the game that descended in these isles since 1978. There's the flip side: the position that it's high time to relinquish total ownership to privately owned land. It means ending the dictates of current constitutional provision where 50 percent of what's yours is simultaneously owned by the local government. It's yours but must seek permission if you have plans to dispose of it.

The well-intentioned land alienation

provision was justified then. Its purpose was to prevent the exploitation of indigenous land by huge corporations from the West Coast. This justified suspicion never occurred. There's hardly, if any, investments from the West Coast even to this day.

Some employ strict interpretation of Article XII as though it is absolute. The same view is held on a subsequent provision limiting who can vote on land disposition. And we often employ the old TTG citizenship mindset if only for the feel-good sentiment it provides, though legally situated in marshland. We equally ignore the fact that since 1986, we all became U.S. citizens. Since that day in 1986 the responsibility of citizenship kicked in, whether we

like it or not.

There's no more room for purposes of vacillating between "what was" versus "what is" on the new rules of the game. In fact, there's nothing in one's warped notion of sovereignty that guarantees justice to all U.S. citizens and those legally situated in the NMI. This archipelago is Americana! *The equal protection clause applies here. And there's only one room left to begin the learning curve as citizens of the US of A: Let's begin by studying the supremacy of laws, specifically the equal protection clause under the U.S. Constitution.*

The supremacy of laws simply means that the U.S. Constitution reigns supreme over all state and territorial

laws. It means that the suspect provision under our constitution on land alienation and the limitation imposed on who can vote for it is at best subservient to the rights of citizens under the U.S. Constitution. Furthermore, the Covenant included an acknowledgment of the supremacy of laws voted overwhelmingly by 78-plus percent of our people.

Indeed, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld the intent of Article XII. The basis of that decision is on the cultural ties of land and our people and the need to prevent any form of exploitation during the incipency of our government 30 years ago. Most, if not all, of the justices aren't aware that these provisions have outlived their usefulness. I further venture to say that if the limitation on voting on the disposition of land were challenged, it wouldn't last a day in federal court. Both provisions are race based (today) and would have seen their final interment if litigated.

If our political relationship is one of semi-independence as is the case of the Republic of Belau or the Federated States of Micronesia, then perhaps we stand some warped chance to dictate the fate of our land according to our jungle rules. That we are a permanent part of

the U.S. naturally means that all must follow the inevitable: the rule of law! *Our country is governed by the rule of law.* She has a rich history of protecting landownership beginning with the arrival of the Pilgrims more than two centuries ago. It is the very foundation that led to the building and strengthening of the most powerful economic foundation and pillars the world over.

With this mind, the founding fathers of the U.S. Constitution signed the sacred document honoring a citizen's rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. *One of the major derivatives is the right to own property.* The legal history of the right of citizens to vote being upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court was fully explained by Mr. Howard Willens, a superb constitutional lawyer with over 50 years of experience. He's done us a favor so that we don't engage in slamming our foot into our mouth in the near term. Let's begin by learning "what is" and forever bid adios to "what was". And if you still have doubts, may I respectfully refer you to Section I of the Covenant Agreement and be guided accordingly.

**John DelRosario**  
*Koblerville, Saipan*

# Stop lying to us!

Dear friends and family:

Just when you thought Saipan voters made a huge statement to our leaders by overwhelmingly rejecting a local gambling initiative in the last mid-term election, greed and stupidity strike once again. Another gambling bill is being proposed, and I can't understand which part of **NO** our leaders don't understand. Is it the *N* or the *O*? Why can't our leaders listen to the will of our people?? Saipan voters don't want legalized gambling. If we did, the gambling initiative would have *passed*! Duh!

According to the latest gambling bill's author, Rep. Oscar Babauta, the proposed "Video Gaming and Entertainment Card Games Act of 2008" will be different from the last three gambling bills that got shot down by the previous Legislature. "The activities proposed under this act are quite limited in nature, will be authorized only in a controlled and specific location and environment, will allow for the orderly transfer to La Fiesta of all video poker machine installations currently scattered and operating throughout the villages, will provide much needed tourist destination activity, and most significantly, can provide immediate funding relief to our cash-strapped CNMI government."

Hmmmm, is it deja vu all over again? Spare us with the lies already! Do you honestly think our people are that *stupid*? Apparently you do, because why else would you want to stuff a gambling bill down our throats after we so clearly rejected it? Here are a couple of stupid lies I want to address:

Stupid Lie No. 1: All video poker establishments will transfer to La Fiesta. Hmmmm, really now? Why should we believe this to be true??? Isn't this similar to the same stupid lie we were told a couple of decades ago by our honest

politicians (a.k.a. OBN, Old Boys Network) that poker would be limited to hotel premises only? Just exactly how stupid do you think we are? We give you just an inch, and you will take over the entire island! No way Jose! Not on my watch!

Stupid Lie No. 2: It can provide immediate funding relief to our cash-strapped CNMI government. Sure, of course it can! And so can legalizing heroin and prostitution! Is this gambling bill similar to the same stupid lie we were told twenty years ago that poker would generate millions of dollars from tourists? We were told by our honest politicians back in the day that locals would not play poker and that tourists would flock to our islands to play these fun-filled slot machines. But that was just another ruse, another lie, and instantly, our people became addicted to poker. And then our *honest politicians* brought it in to every village, where it further hurt our people, leading to a rise in domestic violence, child neglect, and crime! The majority of poker addicts are our people, not tourists! Our local poker addicts beg, borrow, and steal just to play this stupid game that is programmed to take their money! How many locals have become millionaires through playing these evil poker machines? And how many families have lost all their money to gambling and poker? The truth is, the only ones who truly benefited from poker were the *owners*! STOP LYING TO US!

You want to know the *real way* to provide immediate funding relief to our cash-strapped CNMI government? Have all of you so-called leaders return your leased cars, pay for your own cell phones and gas, and cut your discretionary fund in half, and cut your salary by ten percent since you did that to

everyone else on the island (except of course yourselves and our judges and our Gov and Lt. Gov)! For once, lead by example, AND STOP LYING TO OUR PEOPLE!

By the way, I would like to know which *Republican* will support this gambling bill. Read your mid-term platform. You promised to get rid of poker establishments on Saipan once and for all. Were you telling the truth or was this just another gimmick to get elected? Show us fan if you are a liar!

No more! I will not tolerate lies about gambling! You have decimated the island of Saipan with your lies and you will be judged by all of us come the very next election! More importantly, don't you ever forget that you will face the ultimate judgment one day by our Lord savior Jesus Christ! Fortunately, Jesus can't be bribed and won't buy in to your evil political lies!

Enough! I am asking every single person on Saipan to call or write Rep. Oscar Babauta and call or write your representative and demand they kill this stupid bill which will bring nothing but more pain and suffering to our island! To our elected leaders, is this the best you can do? Because if it is, please step down immediately and allow competent, creative people to take the lead!

I ask all of you to say no to any gambling initiative and stupid quick-fix schemes that will only bring more misery to our beautiful island. Our children have suffered enough! It is time we take back our government and bring it home to the common people! Power to the people of the CNMI! And shame on any leader who supports this evil gambling bill!

**Ed Propst**  
*Gualo Rai, Saipan*

# Now it's your turn to vote

I really thought you elected officials are our representatives. I do not comprehend how hard can it be to vote yes or no? To our elected officials, when it comes to critical issues that will have an impact on our lives here in our CNMI you either abstain from voting or are absent from the hearings. What is the deal?

Senator Crisostimo, last time this bill (austerity Fridays) was introduced, you abstained from it. This time...absent? Then why are you there? Same goes to anyone who abstained or is absent from the hearings. You make us feel awful, at the same time question our choices when we cast our trust in you to represent us. For once, when you decide to abstain from voting on House bills or make amendments, think about ALL of US, people that voted for you. Think about the people of CNMI that made you a Senator, Congressman/woman or Governor.

Let us rewind: What did we do when you came knocking on our door asking us to believe in you and to make the right choice and to vote for you? Ah yes! We went to the polls and voted for you. We did not abstain or were absent from the polls. You are there because of us, the people of the CNMI.

Maybe we need to change our menu, station, or channel once in a while. Instead of staying up there in our small cubicle offices, why don't we try going out and inhaling CNMI's fresh air

by going around the villages or around the islands to see what needs to be improved? How many of you have actually done this since you came into office? How many of you have made unexpected visits to departments that you chair so that you can be aware of their necessities, complaints or any issues that is hindering their performances in that department instead of waiting for the director or employees to make an appointment with you? Or better yet, how many of you have gone back to the homes that you last visited before the election so that you can ask us what we want or tell you how we feel about your actions in office lately? Maybe if you try at least one of these approaches then you might get an idea(s) on how to improve our CNMI.

Or better yet remind yourself why you are in office! Sometimes it's best to speak to someone that is looking in from the outside because we get a better view of what's really going on. Not only do we see; we hear as well!

To our elected officials, in the near future when you are casting your vote, think about all of us here in the CNMI. Stop dancing the "limbo rock" and change your tune to the Chamolinian station or Island Issues. Vote yes or no! It's not so hard. We did it too! We voted for YOU. Make our vote count. Election is just around the corner.

**Luella I. Marciano**  
*Chalan Kanoa, Saipan*

## DEMAND

From Page 13

their eyes are focused straight ahead on the real business of solving the CNMI's social, political and economic woes instead of on pointless posturing and railing against imagined enemies with self-serving diversion and deception.

To meet OUR responsibility now, we must get behind House Resolution 16-9, the much needed item of public business just introduced by the honorable Independent Representative,

Tina Sablan. And we must get behind it NOW! House Resolution 16-9, for those who care (as well as for those who don't), will *require*, among other things, that the Legislature provide the people of the Commonwealth with full and fair notice of House sessions and committee meetings, and improved access to the public records of the Legislature. It's a good start. It's necessary. And it's LONG overdue. If these notions haven't captured your attention yet, maybe a look at the governor's recent bid to become Emperor of the Marianas will open your

eyes. Yes, the esteemed Governor has suggested, and will apparently be granted, re-implementation of austerity holidays; suspension of numerous formerly paid public holidays; reduction of payment to the Retirement Fund (Yeow!); 100 percent full reprogramming authority; suspension of certain funds; and permission for the executive branch to tap into unused public funds. Double yeow! And now that the Governor has his three new officials sworn onto the Public Utilities Commission, what might that mean for CUC? Well, while the gov-

ernor is busy reprogramming YOUR money, and everybody else's money, what are you willing to bet (most everything you have is already on the table, you know) that we'll all still be reprogramming our own VCRs and alarm clocks after every power outage if the power comes back on?

Do your homework, ladies and gentlemen of the Commonwealth. Make your list. Tell your elected officials what to do. And if they deny, defy, refute or refuse you...then stand up and tell them where they can go. But tell them something! Demand

responsibility and accountability. Or demand resignations, retirement, restitution, or recall. Do not settle for the same old [expletive deleted]. The stakes are high. Demand adoption of House Resolution 16-9, the transparency measure authored by Rep. Tina Sablan. You can make responsible, trustworthy, and accountable government mandatory by the pressure you exert and by the legislation and other measures YOU support.

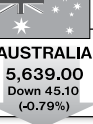
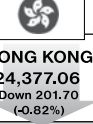




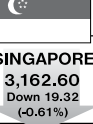
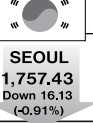
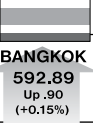
**Kenneth Hodson O'Harnett**  
*Saipan, MP*



# Business

## STOCK Portfolio

### ASIAN MARKETS

|   |  |
|---|--|
|    | <b>AUSTRALIA</b><br>5,639.00<br>Down 45.10<br>(-0.79%)   |
|    | <b>HONG KONG</b><br>24,377.06<br>Down 201.70<br>(-0.82%) |
|    | <b>JAKARTA</b><br>2,272.88<br>Down 13.92<br>(-0.61%)     |
|    | <b>TOKYO</b><br>13,263.38<br>Down 186.85<br>(-1.39%)     |
|    | <b>K. LUMPUR</b><br>1,221.07<br>Down 0.91<br>(-0.07%)    |
|   | <b>MANILA</b><br>2,986.23<br>Up 3.19<br>(+0.11%)         |
|   | <b>SINGAPORE</b><br>3,162.60<br>Down 19.32<br>(-0.61%)   |
|  | <b>SEOUL</b><br>1,757.43<br>Down 16.13<br>(-0.91%)       |
|  | <b>BANGKOK</b><br>592.89<br>Up .90<br>(+0.15%)           |

### LEADING INDICATORS

**DOW**  
12,612.43  
+0.02%

**NASDAQ**  
2,364.83  
-0.26%

**S&P**  
1,372.54  
+0.16%

### MONEY MARKET

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Australian Dollar  | 1.0791  |
| British Pound      | 0.5024  |
| Canadian Dollar    | 1.0134  |
| Chinese Renmbi     | 7.0012  |
| Euro               | 0.6347  |
| Hong Kong Dollar   | 7.7901  |
| Indian Rupee       | 40,025  |
| Indonesian Rupiah  | 9,211.5 |
| Japanese Yen       | 102.435 |
| Malaysian Ringgit  | 3.1885  |
| New Zealand Dollar | 1.2564  |
| Philippine Peso    | 41.725  |
| Singapore Dollar   | 1.3812  |
| South Korean Won   | 975.45  |
| Swiss Franc        | 1.0104  |
| Taiwan Dollar      | 30.49   |
| Thailand Baht      | 31.81   |

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

## Growth in consumer borrowing slows

WASHINGTON (AP)—Consumers, battered by a credit crunch and prolonged housing slump, significantly slowed their pace of borrowing in February.

The Federal Reserve reported Monday that consumer borrowing rose at an annual rate of 2.4 percent in February, just half of the 4.9 percent increase in January.

The slowdown reflected much weaker demand for auto loans and other type of non-revolving credit, which rose at a rate of 0.4 percent in February, much lower than the 3.6 percent growth rate in January. Credit card debt rose at a 5.9 percent rate.

Consumers have been moving to put more of their purchases on their credit cards as banks have tightened up on lending standards for home equity loans in response to the deepening credit crisis. The price of homes has fallen sharply in many parts of the country.

The 2.4 percent overall rate of increase was the slowest since debt growth had slowed to a 1 percent rate in December.

The overall increase in credit of \$5.16 billion, which was slightly below expectations, pushed total consumer credit to a record \$2.539 trillion.

The Fed's measure of consumer borrowing does not include any debt secured by real estate such as mortgages or home equity loans.

## Stocks finish mixed ahead of earnings

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street started the week with a narrowly mixed performance Monday, with many investors moving to the sidelines as they wait for quarterly profit reports.

Stocks had popped higher in earlier trading, extending last week's big advance on talk of a \$5 billion private equity investment in Washington Mutual Inc. The nation's largest thrift is reportedly in discussions with buyout shop TPG Inc. and other investors about selling a stake in itself in return for cash.

But with earnings on tap and the Federal Reserve issuing

minutes from its March meeting on Tuesday, investors, while clearly feeling more confident overall, decided to play it a little safer late in the day—especially with Alcoa Inc. announcing its first-quarter results after the close.

Alcoa was the biggest loser among the 30 Dow Jones industrials, falling \$1.56, or 4 percent, to \$37.44 ahead of its earnings release. The aluminum company said it had a 54 percent drop in first-quarter net income, a sharper decline than the market expected. Its shares were little changed in after-hours trading.

## Gasoline prices add to record gains

NEW YORK (AP)—Gas prices rose further into record territory Monday, pulled higher by resurgent oil futures and a growing belief that gasoline supplies are falling as the summer driving season approaches.

Oil futures, meanwhile, jumped nearly \$3 to more than \$109 a barrel as traders bet the Federal Reserve will continue cutting interest rates. Comments from OPEC suggesting the cartel plans no production increases also boosted oil prices.

At the pump, the national average price of a gallon of gas jumped 3.6 cents over the weekend to a record \$3.339, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. That's 58 cents higher than a year ago. In New York Mercantile Exchange trading, May gasoline futures rose 2.68 cents to settle at \$2.7835 a gallon.

The Energy Department expects retail gas prices to peak above \$3.60 a gallon later in the spring, said Guy Caruso,

head of the department's Energy Information Administration, according to Dow Jones Newswires. Many analysts see prices peaking closer to \$4 a gallon.

Gas prices are following crude futures higher, but they're also rising on concerns about supplies and demand. Analysts say refiners have cut back on gasoline production due to low profit margins; the rising price of crude means it costs them more to refine gas.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### 5 San Diego officials face SEC charges

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The Securities and Exchange Commission filed a civil complaint Monday against five former San Diego city officials, alleging they committed fraud by concealing a ballooning shortfall in the city pension fund. The complaint said the officials knew the city was underfunding its pension obligations and failed to disclose the extent of its problems to bond-rating agencies or to the investors who bought city bonds in 2002 and 2003. The complaint mirrors allegations against the nation's eighth-largest city that were settled in November 2006 after the scandal helped force the mayor's resignation. The SEC ordered the city to hire an independent financial consultant but stopped short of levying fines.

#### Novartis spending \$39 billion for Alcon

GENEVA (AP)—Switzerland's Novartis AG said Monday it will spend about \$39 billion in a two-step bid for a majority stake in U.S. eye-care company Alcon. The deal for Alcon Inc., which makes Opti-Free contact lens solution and has 14,500 employees worldwide, would be one of the largest in Swiss history. Novar-

tis will initially pay food and beverages giant Nestle SA \$11 billion (7 billion euros) for a 25 percent share of the Texas-based company. Novartis will then have the exclusive right to buy Nestle's remaining 52 percent stake in Alcon for about \$28 billion (17.8 billion euros) between January 2010 and July 2011.

#### Yahoo still wants Microsoft to raise bid

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Brushing aside the threat of a disruptive takeover battle that could batter its shaky stock, Internet pioneer Yahoo Inc. on Monday reiterated its refusal to sell to Microsoft Corp. for less than \$45 billion. Yahoo's defiance, spelled out in a letter to Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer, marked the latest twist in a tug-of-war pitting two high-tech icons trying to mount a more formidable challenge to online search and advertising leader Google Inc. Analysts believe the two rivals will either broker a friendly transaction before the end of the month or wrestle for the allegiance of Yahoo's shareholders in a prickly showdown that could drag into the summer. Ballmer turned up the heat up on Yahoo over the weekend by setting an April 26 deadline for the Sunnyvale-based company to accept Microsoft's offer.

**24/7 POWER AVAILABLE**



Realty Management services is a full-service property management company located on the island of Saipan in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PMB 521 Box 10000  
Saipan, MP 96950-8900  
Tel: 1 (670) 235-6527/28  
Fax: (670) 235-6530  
sales@rmssaipan.com  
www.rmssaipan.com



## SUNSETVIEW TERRACES



Spacious two bedroom terrace apartments with a beautiful view of Western Saipan from Navy Hill. All units feature a private balcony and are fully furnished.  
FREE wireless DSL internet service.

- 24 Hour Water
- Night time security
- Typhoon Shutters
- Laundry area
- Backup Generator
- On-call maintenance staff

**Now we're giving you more reasons to sign up for a year's contract!**

Receive an annual FREE VIP Membership to Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and enjoy these VIP privileges:

- 1 Free Sunday Brunch Buffet for two
- 20% discount on food and beverages in all outlets / restaurants
- 20% discount on drinks after happy hour at the Chambre Bar
- Above discounts good for up to 6 persons (including VIP cardholder)



# Nation

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Boy takes wheel of runaway bus in Ohio

CLEVELAND (AP)—Rolling downhill in a bus with his screaming classmates and no driver, a fast-acting 11-year-old jumped behind the wheel Monday and steered the bus into a pillar, stopping it from careening out of control. Some children jumped out the side door and rolled into the street. The driver, Michael Weir, had stopped for fuel and was in the station's restroom when the bus started to roll with 27 children aboard. Fifteen children suffered minor injuries and were treated at hospitals and released. The boy who stopped the bus likely saved the children from worse injuries, authorities said.

### Sen. Vitter may testify in sex case

WASHINGTON (AP)—Louisiana Sen. David Vitter may be called to testify on behalf of a woman accused of running an upscale Washington prostitution service, attorneys said Monday at the opening of trial. The Republican senator was among several possible witnesses identified Monday in the racketeering and money laundering case against Deborah Palfrey. Among others on the list is Harlan Ullman, a military strategist who created the concept of "shock and awe" that the United States used to open hostilities against Iraq more than five years ago. Prosecutors said they planned to call about a dozen former escorts and several clients.

### Search off for Maine plane crash victim

BELFAST, Maine (AP)—The Coast Guard ended its search for the pilot of a small aerobatic plane that crashed into the ocean though state officials were continuing an underwater search Monday afternoon. The Coast Guard received a call of a SIAI-Marchetti SF-260 with one person aboard crashing into Belfast Bay near the Belfast airport around 6 p.m. Sunday. The Coast Guard identified the pilot as 60-year-old Doug Low of Lincolnville, the owner of Ace Aviation. Coast Guard officials said an oil slick and debris matching the description of the plane were located about a mile offshore.

### Ga. soldier's widow wants his sperm

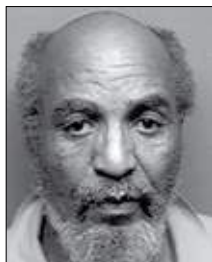
ATLANTA (AP)—A soldier's widow has succeeded in having sperm taken from his body and frozen four days after he was slain in Iraq, though medical experts said it's highly unlikely she would be able to bear his child. Sgt. Dayne Darren Dhanoolal, 26, died March 31 when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Baghdad. He had talked often with his wife Kynesha about having children, according to court papers filed by her lawyer. On Friday, a federal judge in Columbus, Ga., granted her request for a temporary restraining order preventing the military from embalming the body until after samples of Dhanoolal's sperm were extracted. The samples were taken later that day. Fertility experts said the procedure almost certainly would not work with her late husband's sperm.

## Civil rights icon's incest trial starts

LEESBURG, Va. (AP)—A daughter of a civil rights icon who served as a top lieutenant to Martin Luther King Jr. testified Monday that her father regularly molested her beginning when she was 6 years old.

The Rev. James L. Bevel pleaded not guilty to a charge of incest before jury selection began Monday. Prosecutors have said he had sex with a teenage daughter years ago, and told her the sex was part of religious training.

The daughter testified she grew up in a communal lifestyle in which she regularly saw her father



Bevel

having sex with women and she came to perceive her own molestation as normal.

She also testified that she and her siblings did not call Bevel "Dad" but instead referred to him as "Rev" or "Jim." She said she told her mother in a written letter that her father was molesting her.

The mother "handed (the letter back) to me and said I spelled 'molest' wrong," the

daughter testified.

The Associated Press generally does not identify the victims of sexual abuse. The daughter is one of at least 14 children Bevel has with several different women, according to her testimony on Monday.

During opening statements, public defender Bonnie Hoffman urged jurors not to focus on Bevel's unconventional lifestyle, or whether he may have committed crimes other than the single incident for which he is charged.

"Get rid of your preconceived notions about how things should be," Hoffman said.

Prosecutor Gigi Lawless told jurors that the testimony "is going to be one of the most horrific things you've ever heard. ... This case is about betrayal."

Prosecutors have said that incest occurred numerous times and in numerous places, but that charges were brought in Virginia because it does not have a statute of limitations for incest.

## McCain: Democrats' stance on Iraq flawed

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Republican presidential candidate John McCain said Monday that calls from his Democratic rivals to withdraw U.S. forces from Iraq stand as a "failure of leadership" as they are making promises they cannot keep.

Democrat Barack Obama said the failure rests with McCain's support for an open-ended occupation of Iraq.

Addressing the Veterans of Foreign Wars, McCain criticized Obama and Democratic Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and insisted that last year's U.S. troop buildup in Iraq brought a glimmer of "something approaching normal" there, despite a recent outbreak of heavy fighting and a U.S. death toll that has surpassed 4,000.

Pulling out now would jeopardize recent gains, McCain said.

"I do not believe that anyone

should make promises as a candidate for president that they cannot keep if elected," McCain told the crowd of about 130 people, mostly veterans.

"To promise a withdrawal of our forces from Iraq, regardless of the calamitous consequences to the Iraqi people, our most vital interests, and the future of the Middle East, is the height of irresponsibility," he said. "It is a failure of leadership."

He took a brief tour of the National World War I Museum afterward.

McCain, the presidential nominee-in-waiting, is closely tied to the unpopular, five-year-old war. McCain was a vocal advocate of the troop increase strategy eventually adopted by President Bush, and is seeking

to convince people the strategy is working. He also argued that Iraq will need more money and aid for reconstruction.

Clinton and Obama, still battling for the Democratic presidential nomination, dispute the claims of success, arguing the war has failed to make the United States safer.

"It's a failure of leadership to support an open-ended occupation of Iraq that has failed to press Iraq's leaders to reconcile, badly overstretched our military, put a strain on our military families, set back our ability to lead the world, and made the American people less safe," Obama said, using McCain's own words against him.

Clinton chastised McCain's Iraq strategy as "four more



McCain

years of the Bush-Cheney-McCain policy of continuing to police a civil war while the threats to our national security, our economy, and our standing in the world mount."

"We simply cannot give the Iraqi government an endless blank check," she said. "It is time to end this war as quickly, as responsibly, and as safely as possible."

Debate will intensify this week as Gen. David H. Petraeus, the top commander in Iraq, and Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker testify to Congress. Clouding their testimony is fighting that erupted late last month as U.S.-trained Iraqi forces attempted to oust Shiite militias from Basra in southern Iraq.

For his part, McCain suggested the Democrats' promise to withdraw troops was motivated by ambition rather than honesty.

## 400+ kids taken from polygamist compound

ELDORADO, Texas (AP)—More than 400 children, mostly girls in pioneer dresses, were swept into state custody from a polygamist sect in what authorities described Monday as the largest child-welfare operation in Texas history.

The dayslong raid on the sprawling compound built by now-jailed polygamist leader Warren Jeffs was sparked by a 16-year-old girl's call to authorities that she was being abused and that girls as young as 14 and 15 were being forced into marriages with much older men.

Dressed in home-sewn, ankle-length dresses with their

hair pinned up in braids, some 133 women left the Yearning for Zion Ranch of their own volition along with the children.

State troopers were holding an unknown number of men in the compound until investigators finished executing a house-to-house search of the 1,700-acre property, which includes a medical facility, numerous large housing units and an 80-foot white limestone temple that rises discordantly out of the brown scrub.

"In my opinion, this is the largest endeavor we've ever been involved in the state of Texas," said Children's Protective Services spokesman Mar-

leigh Meisner, who said she was also involved in the 1993 siege of the Branch Davidian compound in Waco.

The members of the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints spent their days raising numerous children, tilling small gardens and doing chores. But at least one former resident says life was not some idyllic replica of 19th-century life.

"Once you go into the compound, you don't ever leave it," said Carolyn Jessop, one of the wives of the alleged leader of the Eldorado complex. Jessop left with her eight

children before the sect moved to Texas.

Jessop said the community emphasized self-sufficiency because they believed the apocalypse was near.

The women were not allowed to wear red—the color Jeffs said belonged to Jesus—and were not allowed to cut their hair. They were also kept isolated from the outside world.

They "were born into this," said Jessop, 40. "They have no concept of mainstream society, and their mothers were born into and have no concept of mainstream culture. Their grandmothers were born into it."

## Three protesters scale Golden Gate Bridge

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Three people protesting China's human rights record and the impending arrival of the Olympic torch climbed up the Golden Gate Bridge on Monday and tied the Tibetan flag and two banners to its cables.

The banners read "One World One Dream. Free Tibet" and "Free Tibet 08."

The protesters wore helmets and harnesses as they made their way up the cables running next to the south tower of the famed span. The climb had the group suspended several 150 feet above traffic.

Reached by cell phone as he dangled from the bridge, demonstrator Laurel Sutherland said he was worried that the torch's planned route through Tibet would lead to more arrests and Chinese officials would use force to stifle any visible dissent.

"The leaders of China have said they'll maintain order at all costs, and we know what that means—bloodshed and violent oppression," he said. "If the IOC allows the torch to proceed



Three people protesting China's human rights record and the impending arrival of the Olympic torch climbed up the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, Monday, April 7, 2008, and tied Tibetan flags and two banners to its cables.

into Tibet they'll have blood on their hands."

The organizers behind Monday's action said they'll remain faithful to their mission of protesting without violence when the torch relay takes place Wednesday here, its only North American stop, despite the disruptive action on the bridge.

They said they wanted to take full advantage of the moment in the international spotlight to get their message out.

"This is a life or death situation for Tibetans," said Yangchen Lhamo, an organizer of Monday's banner hanging, who is on the board of directors of Students for a Free Tibet.

Mary Ziegenbier, a spokeswoman with the California Highway Patrol, said authorities would not try to go get the protesters out of concern for their safety.

"We don't want to put their lives in danger by going and grabbing them off the suspension cables right now," she said.



# Asia

## RP officers sentenced for coup

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—A Philippine court sentenced nine military officers Tuesday to jail terms ranging from 12 to 40 years for taking part in a foiled coup plot against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in 2003.

The nine are part of a group of 31 junior officers accused of leading a daylong mutiny in which they took over an upscale hotel and mall complex and rigged it with explosives in Manila's financial district of Makati. They

later surrendered peacefully.

At the conclusion of the five-year trial, Judge Oscar Pimentel of the Regional Trial Court of Makati sentenced two officers to 40 years in prison and seven others to 12 years. They are facing separate court martial charges.

Pimentel also ordered five years served in detention to be subtracted from the sentence.

Military Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon had no immediate reaction, but said the verdict showed that the ju-

dicial system "is taking its due course." He said he appreciated the officers' guilty plea.

Last week, all nine changed their pleas to guilty in an indication of a possible plea bargain. But Assistant State Prosecutor Richard Fadullon denied any deal was reached.

Fadullon said the prosecution sought only 20 years for the two officers—Capt. Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo from the elite army Scout Rangers.

## China condemns Olympic relay protests

**BEIJING (AP)**—China on Tuesday condemned protests that disrupted the Olympic torch relay as "despicable" and disputed media reports that said the torch had to be extinguished several times during the relay in Paris.

Thousands of raucous protesters angry about China's hosting of the Olympics Games, its policies in Ti-

bet and human rights record dogged the torch throughout London and Paris. On Monday, organizers were forced to cancel the last third of the route in Paris after demonstrators hurled water at the flame and lunged at torchbearers.

China's Foreign Ministry blamed the disruptions on groups seeking to split the far

western region of Tibet from the rest of China.

"We express our strong condemnation to the deliberate disruption of the Olympic torch relay by Tibetan separatist forces regardless of the Olympic spirit and the law of Britain and France," spokeswoman Jiang Yu said in a statement posted on the ministry Web site.

## 16 killed in strike against Afghan warlord

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—U.S. and Afghan forces attacked a remote village in a mountainous region of north-eastern Afghanistan following reports that an infamous insurgent leader was in the area, a governor said Monday. At least 16 people were killed.

Gov. Tamim Nuristani said Afghan soldiers told him Gul-

buddin Hekmatyar was meeting with top deputy Kashmir Khan in the Dohabi district of Nuristan province on Sunday, sparking a fierce bombardment. The Defense Ministry said Hekmatyar wasn't the target but that fighters from his group, Hezb-i-Islami, had gathered in the village alongside Taliban militants.

Other provincial leaders said many civilians were killed in the hours-long clash, which included airstrikes in the remote villages of Shok and Kendal. Nuristani said it was too early to know if any of the 16 killed were civilians. His casualty figures came from police who had reached the remote district.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### 6 Chinese fishermen missing in collision

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—A Chinese fishing boat capsized after colliding with a South Korean cargo ship off South Korea's southernmost island Monday, leaving six Chinese sailors missing, the coast guard said. The 16,000-ton South Korean vessel rescued two Chinese crew members after the accident in waters about 110 miles southwest of Mara island, said Kim Hyung-wook, a South Korean Coast Guard official on Jeju island. The coast guard deployed two search-and-rescue vessels to find the six missing fishermen, and was investigating the cause of the accident.

#### NKorea warns SKorea government will fail

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—South Korea's new government will not last if it continues to allow its U.S.-led policy to ruin reconciliation efforts on the Korean peninsula, North Korea said Monday. The North's official Rodong Shinmun newspaper criticized President Lee Myung-bak's government for "following the U.S. imperialists" and driving inter-Korean relations to catastrophe. Those who "dance to the whistle of outside forces will only suffer a collapse," it said in a commentary.

#### Explosion reported in Nepal's capital

**KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)**—An unidentified attacker on a motorcycle threw a bomb near the site of an election rally in Nepal's capital on Monday, wounding at least one person, officials said. The bomb was thrown near a conven-

tion center in Katmandu, said Home Ministry spokesman Ekmani Nepal. The attack came minutes after a rally was held in the area by the Rastriya Prajatantra Party, a small group that is contesting Thursday's election for a Constituent Assembly that will decide the Himalayan nation's political future.

#### Foreign media in China harassed on Tibet

**BEIJING (AP)**—Western reporters in China have received harassing phone calls, e-mails and text messages, some with death threats, supposedly from ordinary Chinese complaining about alleged bias in coverage of recent anti-Chinese protests in Tibet. The harassment began two weeks ago and was largely targeted at foreign television broadcasters, CNN in particular. But the campaign broadened in recent days after the mobile phone numbers and other contact information for reporters from The Associated Press, The Wall Street Journal and USA Today were posted on several Web sites, including a military affairs chat site. Those sending the messages and making the calls say they are ordinary Chinese, a claim that could not be verified.

#### SKorean military plane crashes

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—A South Korean military plane has crashed during routine training and its two pilots have safely ejected. The air force said after the crew's ejection that the RF-4C patrol aircraft struck a hill in mountainous Gangwon Province early Monday, 25 minutes after taking off from a base south of Seoul. The military said there were no reports of casu-

# World



Pro-Tibet protesters lay on the pavement as the convoy of the Olympic Torch, behind, arrives Monday, April 7, 2008 in Paris.

## Olympic torch relay in chaos in Paris

**PARIS (AP)**—Paris' Olympic torch relay descended into chaos Monday, with protesters scaling the Eiffel Tower, grabbing for the flame and forcing security officials to repeatedly snuff out the torch and transport it by bus past demonstrators yelling "Free Tibet!"

The relentless anti-Chinese demonstrations ignited across the capital with unexpected power and ingenuity, foiling 3,000 police officers deployed on motorcycles, in jogging gear

and even inline skates.

Chinese organizers finally gave up on the relay, canceling the last third of what China had hoped would be a joyous jog by torch-bearing VIPs past some of Paris' most famous landmarks.

Thousands of protesters slowed the relay to a stop-start crawl, with impassioned displays of anger over China's human rights record, its grip on Tibet and support for Sudan despite years of bloodshed in Darfur.

Five times, the Chinese offi-

cials in dark glasses and track-suits who guard the torch extinguished it and retreated to the safety of a bus—the last time emerging only after the vehicle drove within 15 feet of the final stop, a track and field stadium. A torchbearer then ran the final steps inside.

Outside, a few French activists supporting Tibet had a fist-fight with pro-Chinese demonstrators. The French activists spat on them and shouted, "Fascists!"

## Teens rampage through Aussie school, 18 hurt

**SYDNEY, Australia (AP)**—Five teenagers brandishing baseball bats and machetes rampaged through a suburban Sydney school Monday and hit a teacher over the head, police said. Eighteen students were treated for minor injuries.

The drama unfolded as hundreds attended an assembly in an outdoor area of Merrylands High School. As the attackers moved in, teachers rushed the students back to class, where they sought refuge behind locked doors, under desks, even in a cupboard.

"I find it very difficult to believe the brazenness of how they entered the school," Police Detective Inspector Jim Stewart said. Such school violence is rare in Australia.

The teens, between the ages of 14 and 16, were arrested and will appear in court Tuesday to face more than 100 charges, police said. They have been charged with offenses including assault and malicious damage and could face up to seven years in prison if convicted.

Police refused to say whether the teens were students at the school.

## Hundreds flee fight in Shiite stronghold

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—Hundreds of people fled fighting in Baghdad's Shiite militia stronghold Monday as U.S. and Iraqi forces increased pressure on anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who faces an ultimatum to either disband his Mahdi Army or give up politics.

Al-Sadr's aides said he would only dismantle the powerful militia if ordered by top Shiite clerics—who have remained silent throughout the increasingly dangerous showdown.

Although al-Sadr holds considerable influence through the Mahdi fighters—estimated at up to 60,000—political exile for his movement would shatter his dream of becoming the major power broker among the country's Shiite majority.

Gunbattles raged around the

sprawling Sadr City district that serves as the Baghdad nerve center of the Mahdi militia, which has been under siege since last week by about 1,000 U.S. and Iraqi troops.

Police said at least 14 civilians were killed in clashes Monday in the Baghdad area, nine of them in Sadr City. Frightened families poured out of Sadr City—some carrying their belongings in sacks or piled in pushcarts.

Three American soldiers were killed Monday in separate attacks in the capital—one by small arms fire and two others by a rocket-propelled grenade, the U.S. said without specifying the neighborhood or whether Shiite extremists were responsible. At least 10 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq since Sunday.

## Mugabe militants target whites farmers

**HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)**—Militant supporters of President Robert Mugabe targeted whites Monday, forcing about a dozen ranchers and farmers off their land as Zimbabwe's longtime ruler fanned racial tensions amid fears he will turn to violence to hold on to power.

Mugabe's opponents pressed a lawsuit seeking to compel the publication of results of the March 29 presidential election that they say Morgan Tsvangirai won.

The opposition leader urged the international community to persuade Mugabe to step down.



## Life &amp; Style

## The Washington Post wins 6 Pulitzers

NEW YORK (AP)—The Washington Post won six Pulitzer Prizes on Monday—the most in its history—including awards for its coverage of the Virginia Tech massacre and a series exposing shoddy treatment of America's war wounded at Walter Reed hospital.

The New York Times received two Pulitzers: one for investigative reporting, for stories on toxic ingredients in medicine and other products from China, and one for explanatory reporting, for examining the ethical issues surrounding DNA testing.

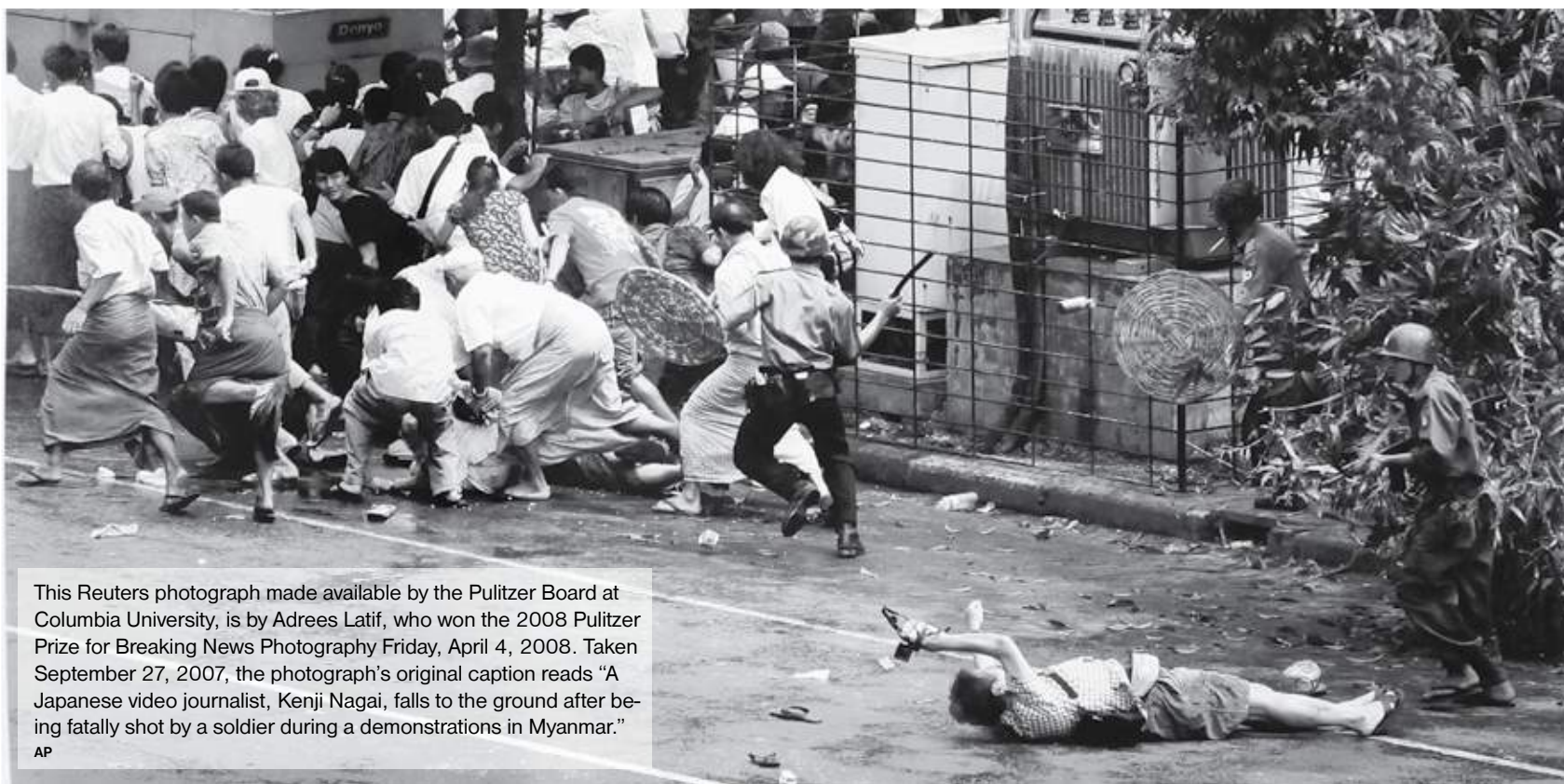
Previously, the Post won as many as four Pulitzers in a single year, in 2006. The record is seven, won by the Times in 2002, mostly for its coverage of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Cheers erupted in the Post newsroom when the prizes were announced. Like many newspapers, the Post is struggling mightily with falling circulation and advertising revenue. It is going through its third round of employee buyouts since 2003.

"This is actually a boost to remind people that we can produce this kind of journalism at any time," said Post Executive Editor Leonard Downie Jr. "We're going to have a large enough newsroom to continue to produce this kind of quality journalism."

In addition to the public service medal for the Walter Reed expose and the breaking-news award for Virginia Tech, the Post won prizes in:

- National reporting, for its exploration of Vice President Dick Cheney's backstage influence;
- International reporting, for a series on how private security contractors in Iraq operate outside many of the laws governing U.S. forces;
- Feature writing, for Gene Weingarten's story on world-class violinist Joshua Bell, who, in an experiment, played beautiful music in a subway station just to see who commuters would react;
- Commentary, for Steven Pearlstein's columns on the nation's economic problems.



This Reuters photograph made available by the Pulitzer Board at Columbia University, is by Adrees Latif, who won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Photography Friday, April 4, 2008. Taken September 27, 2007, the photograph's original caption reads "A Japanese video journalist, Kenji Nagai, falls to the ground after being fatally shot by a soldier during a demonstrations in Myanmar." AP

The Chicago Tribune also won in the investigative reporting category, for stories exposing faulty government regulation that resulted in recalls of car seats, toys and cribs.

The Pulitzer for local reporting went to David Umhoefer of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel for stories on how county employees' pensions were padded.

Michael Ramirez of Investor's Business Daily won in the editorial cartooning category.

Mark Feeney of The Boston Globe was honored in the criticism category for his observations on movies, photography and painting.

The prize for breaking news photography went to Adrees Latif of Reuters for his photograph of a Japanese videographer who was fatally wounded in a street protest in Myanmar.

Preston Gannaway of the Concord Monitor in New Hampshire was honored in the feature photography category for

a series of pictures chronicling a family coping with a parent's terminal illness.

No prize was awarded this year in editorial writing.

The awards were announced at a time of great distress in the industry, with many newspapers laying off employees and cutting back on coverage as readers and advertisers forsake their daily paper for the Internet.

"Amid all the gloomy talk about journalism today, these are fine examples of high-quality journalism in all parts of the nation," said Sig Gissler, administrator for the Pulitzers.

The Post series on Walter Reed Army Medical Center was done by reporters Dana Priest and Anne Hull and photographer Michel du Cille. It documented in sickening detail the shoddy treatment and poor living conditions for wounded soldiers.

The series caused a national outcry and led to the firing of the Army secretary. A presidential commission recom-

mended many changes.

The first article reported "signs of neglect are everywhere: mouse droppings, belly-up cockroaches, stained carpets, cheap mattresses" as well as "disengaged clerks, unqualified platoon sergeants and overworked case managers."

The Post was honored also for its first three days of coverage of the Virginia Tech shooting rampage, in which a mentally ill student killed 32 people and committed suicide. A team of 11 reporters worked on the story.

The newspaper wrote about the failure of the university's mental health system to help gunman Seung-Hui Cho, despite many warning signs. The paper also gave readers profiles of both Cho and each of his victims.

Barton Gellman and Jo Becker won the national reporting award for a four-part series that examined how Cheney "has shaped his times as no vice president has before." The stories detailed

his influence on the war against terror, tax and spending policies and environmental regulations.

Times reporters Walt Bogdanich and Jake Hooker were honored for investigative reporting. It was Bogdanich's third Pulitzer, and it's "every bit as exciting," he said.

"It's why I got into journalism—to make a difference," Bogdanich said.

The Pulitzers are journalism's highest honor, and the public service award is the most distinguished of all.

The awards are given by Columbia University on the recommendation of the 18-member Pulitzer board. The Pulitzers were created under the terms of the will of newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer, who died in 1911. The first awards were handed out in 1917.

Each of the Pulitzers carries a prize of \$10,000, except for the public service award, which is a gold medal bestowed on the newspaper.

## 'August: Osage County' wins Pulitzer

NEW YORK (AP)—The Pulitzer Prize for drama was awarded Monday to Tracy Letts for his brutal and dark comedy, *August: Osage County*. Bob Dylan won a special music citation.

Junot Diaz, a 40-year-old native of the Dominican Republic who moved to New Jersey as a boy, won the fiction prize for *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.

Daniel Walker Howe won for history for *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848*.

Howe, a professor emeritus at Oxford and UCLA, was a finalist for the 2007 National Book Critics Circle Award for *What Hath God Wrought*, which examines America from the Battle of New Orleans to the end of the war with Mexico.

David Halberstam, who was killed in a car crash last year at age 73, was nominated as a finalist in the history category for *The Coldest Winter: America and the*

*Korean War*. Halberstam won a Pulitzer in journalism for international reporting in 1964 and was a finalist in general non-fiction in 2002.

John Matteson won for biography for *Eden's Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father*. Matteson teaches English at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.

"I am just beside myself with joy. I can't even believe this is happening!" Matteson said. He added he was "absolutely in no way, shape or form" expecting to win.

Saul Friedlander won the general nonfiction award for *The Years of Extermination: Nazi Germany and the Jews, 1939-1945*.

Two prizes were awarded for poetry: Robert Hass for *Time and Materials* and Philip Schultz for *Failure*.

Hass, 67, is a former U.S. poet laureate who grew up in San Francisco and still lives in the Bay area. Schultz is founder of the Writer's Studio in New York and

former director of New York University's graduate creative writing program.

David Lang won the music award for *The Little Match Girl Passion*, which premiered Oct. 25 at Carnegie Hall in New York.

"I really was trying to make something which was heartfelt," Lang said Monday.

The awards carry a prize of \$10,000.

The citation for the 66-year-old Dylan noted his "profound impact on popular music and American culture, marked by lyrical compositions of extraordinary poetic power." The special citation, which does not have a monetary award, was a first Pulitzer nod for a rock musician. In 1999, the Pulitzer board gave a posthumous citation to jazz great Duke Ellington "in recognition of his musical genius," while another special posthumous citation went to jazzman Thelonious Monk in 2006. Two other jazz artists won regular Pulitzers in music, Wyn-

ton Marsalis for a jazz oratorio in 1997 and Ornette Coleman last year.

*August: Osage County* originated at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company last summer and opened in New York in December to some of the year's best reviews. Also nominated as finalists in the drama category were *Yellow Face* by David Henry Hwang and *Dying City* by Christopher Shinn.

After learning he had won the drama prize, Letts said, "Oh, man. It's pretty overwhelming. I'm sure it hasn't settled in yet."

He described the play as "loosely autobiographical."

"There were just some details from my grandmother, my grandfather's suicide, that I had played over and over in my head for many, many years," he said in a telephone interview from Chicago. "I always thought: 'Well, that's the stuff of drama right there.'"

Letts' father, Dennis Letts, appeared in the cast as the Oklahoma patriarch



Playwright Tracy Letts is shown in New York in this Dec. 14, 2007, file photo.

whose disappearance sparks an acrimonious family reunion. Dennis Letts was diagnosed with cancer in September but continued performing eight shows a week, even while he was undergoing treatment, until the end of January. He died in February.



# Jury says driver, paparazzi killed Diana

**LONDON (AP)**—A coroner's jury returned the most serious verdict within its power Monday, ruling that Princess Diana and her boyfriend were unlawfully killed because their driver and pursuing paparazzi were reckless—behavior tantamount to manslaughter.

Criminal charges were unlikely, however, because the incident happened in France outside the jurisdiction of British authorities.

Rejecting claims by the father of Diana's boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, that the couple were murdered, the jury concluded after six months of testimony they were victims of reckless speed by their drinking chauffeur and the pack of photographers chasing after them in Paris in 1997.

"The verdict is unlawful killing, grossly negligent driving of the following vehicles and of the Mercedes" carrying the couple, the jury foreman announced.

That was the verdict of nine of the 11 jurors. There was no indication why there were two dissenters.

All 11 agreed that the car slamming head-on into a concrete pillar rather than striking the wall on the other side was a key factor in their deaths. The jury also faulted Diana and Fayed for not buckling their seat belts.

But jurors laid the heaviest blame on the couple's driver, Henri Paul, who had been

drinking shortly before the high-speed crash that killed all three in a Paris underpass on Aug. 31, 1997, and on the paparazzi following them.

Diana's sons, Princes William and Harry, issued a statement expressing support for the verdict and thanking the jurors for their long work.

"We agree with their verdicts, and are both hugely grateful to each and every one of them for the forbearance they have shown in accepting such significant disruption to their lives over the past six months," the princes said.

Fayed's wealthy father, Mohamed Al Fayed, declared that the jury got it wrong. "The most important thing is, it is murder," he said as he left the Royal Courts of Justice.

The coroner, Lord Justice Scott Baker, had instructed the jury there was no proof whatever for Al Fayed's contention that the couple were victims of a murder plot orchestrated by Prince Philip and carried out by British secret agents.

John Stevens, the former chief of London's Metropolitan Police, said the verdicts vindicated the force's two-year investigation.

"What they have said, of course, is that the deaths were caused by Henri Paul and also by the paparazzi," Stevens said. "If you read the report, you will see that's exactly what we said."

Because the accident happened in France, no British charges can be laid against the photographers.

Nine were charged with manslaughter in France, but the charges were thrown out in 2002. Three photographers—Jacques Langevin, Christian Martinez and Fabrice Chassery—were convicted of invasion of privacy for taking pictures of the couple and were each fined one euro in 2006.

The couple's deaths came six weeks after romance bloomed while Diana and her two sons were guests of Mohamed Al Fayed in southern France.

In following weeks, Diana and Dodi Fayed shared sea cruises, dinners in Paris, even a helicopter trip in England to visit a medium trusted by Diana. Fayed showered Diana with lavish gifts, including a ring that may or may not have been intended to seal an engagement.

When the couple flew to Paris on Aug. 30, 1997, they were pursued from the airport by paparazzi, who then swarmed outside the Ritz Hotel—owned by Mohamed Al Fayed.

Hoping to shake off the paparazzi, Dodi Fayed agreed to a plan to sneak out the back way in a single car. At least three photographers weren't fooled, and the chase was on.

Fayed died instantly when the Mercedes, traveling more than 60 mph, slammed into a concrete pil-

lar in the Alma underpass at 12:22 a.m. Medics initially thought Diana would survive her severe injuries, but she died at Pitie-Salpetriere Hospital around 4 a.m. Only Diana's bodyguard, Trevor Rees, lived.

French police announced a day after the crash that tests on Paul's blood showed his blood-alcohol level was three times over the national drunk-driving standard.

The finding was disputed, and British experts said the French documentation could have been better. But even Al Fayed's security chief discovered Paul had downed two double Ricards—equivalent to four shots of whis-

key—in the hours before taking the wheel.

Al Fayed, who also owns Harrod's department store in London, has spent lavishly to investigate the crash and propound his theory of a royal plot against the couple.

British taxpayers have paid a heavy price as well. The expense of the inquest, including lawyers and staff assisting the coroner, has passed \$6 million, and the Metropolitan Police says it spent \$16 million on its two-year investigation.

Those totals don't include the cost of lawyers who represented the London police and the Se-

cret Intelligence Service during the inquest.

John Loughrey, who painted the names of Dodi and Diana on his face before attending the inquest every day, gave the verdict his approval.

"I'm happy for Diana, now she can rest in peace," he said.

But it may not be over. Al Fayed's aides weren't ruling out an appeal, perhaps arguing that the coroner erred in his instructions to the jury or in conduct of the proceedings.

"That is a very difficult route, but we are keeping all our options open," said Al Fayed's spokesman, Michael Cole.

## First Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

### Lalane Celis Delos Santos Lizama

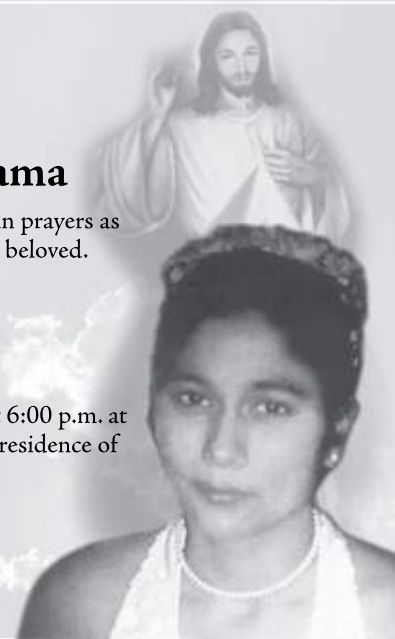
would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first death anniversary of our dearly beloved.

Mass will be offered at St. Jude Church.  
Sunday 6:00 a.m. Monday - Friday 6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 7:00 p.m. Sunday 6:00 a.m.

On the final day Monday 4/14/08, mass will be offered at 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church with dinner to follow immediately at the residence of Mr./Mrs. Albert Lizama in Kobleville.

Your presence and prayer will be greatly appreciated.  
Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

**From the Family**



## IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

### In Loving Memory

# †Relina Dakano Tudela

Lovingly known as "Lina"

**Her memories will forever lives in the hearts of Her:**

**Husband:** Francisco Leon Guerrero Tudela

**Children and Families:**

Helen & Steven Eavansen (*William Moses, Barbara, Scott*)

Stephen & Noshi Lipton (*Ernest Diana, Riana, David*)

Emlok & †Erwin & Allan Zaccharias (*Jolina, Roselyn, Carrie, Erwina, Walter, Glen, Laura*)

Betty & Rickson Malakai-Hadley (*Darrel, Vanessa, Treamna, Ricardo, Bob*)

Ricky D. & Clarissa Tudela (*Relita, Kaelene, Ricky Jr., Kendrik*)

Francine D. Tudela & Murphy Paul

Henry D. & Carmen Ann Tudela (*Jordan, Henry Jr., Megan*)

Joseph D. Tudela

Dyahn & Arlys Regan (*Harvey, Hurley, Jerry6, Jesse, RJ, Leann*)

**She is additionally survived by numerous great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.**

**Brothers, Sister and In-laws:**

†Epner & Elsie Dakano

Peter & Erihne Dakano

Isaser Jephne

†Leonard Dakano

†Merly & †Simon Edgar

†Ruth & †Nathan Malakai

Enje & †Petrik Peter

Apisak & †Kioshi Hespak

†Aslina & †Norman Obed

†Arline Matu

Elita & †Pailelli Copin

Angelina & Frank Sienes

†Vicenta & †Miguel Quitugua

Trinidad & †Antonio Santos

†Fridolin & Esperanza Songgao

†Victorino & Maria Deleon Guerrero

†Francesca Tudela

†Pablo Tudela

Daily Mass of Intention is being celebrated each evening at 6:00 p.m. at Nuestra Señora de Soledad Church in Kagman.

On Monday, April 14, 2008, her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 a.m. to Nuestra Señora de Soledad Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. Interment Services will be at Santuario Pax Memorial Gardens-Kagman, where she will be laid at a peaceful rest.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase.  
Please join us in prayers.

**Francisco LG. Tudela**  
**Children and Family**



# Dylan, Tracy Letts win Pulitzer nods

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Thanks to Bob Dylan, rock 'n' roll has finally broken through the Pulitzer wall. Dylan, the most acclaimed and influential songwriter of the past half century, who more than anyone brought rock from the streets to the lecture hall, received an honorary Pulitzer Prize on Monday, cited for his "profound impact on popular music and American culture, marked by lyrical compositions of extraordinary poetic power."

It was the first time Pulitzer judges, who have long favored classical music, and, more recently, jazz, awarded an art form once dismissed as barbaric, even subversive.

"I am in disbelief," Dylan fan and fellow Pulitzer winner Junot Diaz said of Dylan's award.

Diaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, a tragic but humorous story of desire, politics and violence among Dominicans at home and in the United States, won the fiction prize. Diaz, 39, worked for more than a decade on his first novel—"I spent most of the time

on dead-ends and doubts," he told The Associated Press on Monday—and at one point included a section about Dylan.

"Bob Dylan was a problem for me," Diaz, who has also published a story collection, *Drown*, said with a laugh. "I had one part that was 40 pages long, the entire chapter was organized around Bob Dylan's lyrics over a two year-period (1967-69). By the end of it, I wanted to throttle my like of Bob Dylan."

The Pulitzer for drama was given to Tracy Letts' *August: Osage County*, which, like Diaz's novel, combines comedy and brutality. Letts calls the play "loosely autobiographical," a bruising family battle spanning several generations of unhappiness and unfulfilled dreams.

"It's a play I have been working on in my head and on paper for many years now," said Letts, reached by the AP in Chicago at the Steppenwolf Theater Company, where *August: Osage County* had its world premiere last summer.

"There were just some details from my

grandmother, my grandfather's suicide (for example) that I had played over and over in my head for many, many years. I always thought, 'Well, that's the stuff of drama right there.'"

Former U.S. poet laureate Robert Hass, already a National Book Award winner for *Time and Materials*, won the poetry Pulitzer, as did Philip Schultz's *Failure*.

"This is the book ... I have always wanted to write," Schultz told the AP. "Everyone is expert on one subject and failure seems to be mine. ... I was born into it. My father went bankrupt when I was 18 and he died soon afterward out of (a) terrible sense of shame. And we lost everything, my mother and I."

Other winners Monday: Daniel Walker Howe, for history, for *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848*; Saul Friedlander, general nonfiction, for *The Years of Extermination: Nazi Germany and the Jews, 1939-1945*; for biography, John Matteson's *Eden's Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father*.

## Pavarotti lip-synched last performance



Tenor Luciano Pavarotti sings during a concert in his native town of Modena, central Italy, in this 2001 file photo. AP

**ROME (AP)**—Luciano Pavarotti, in severe pain months before his cancer diagnosis, lip-synched his last performance, according to the maestro who conducted the aria at the opening ceremony of the Turin Olympics. The late tenor's manager said Monday the bitter cold made a live performance impossible at the 2006 Winter Games.

The conductor, Leone Magiera, reveals in a book that the rousing rendition of "Nessun Dorma" ("Let No One Sleep") was prerecorded because "it would have been too dangerous for him to give a live performance in that

physical condition."

Magiera, who worked with Pavarotti for years, said the tenor was suffering from sharp pains months before being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and was using a wheelchair. Pavarotti died in September 2007. He was 71.

"The orchestra pretended to play for the public there, I pretended to conduct and Luciano pretended to sing," Magiera writes in "Pavarotti Visto Da Vicino" ("Pavarotti Seen From Close Up"), which was published last month. "It came off beautifully, no one was aware of the tech-

nical tricks."

Pavarotti recorded the famed aria from Puccini's "Turandot" in a studio in his hometown of Modena a few days before his February appearance in Turin, Magiera said. The orchestra prerecorded its part separately.

"His voice was nearly intact," Magiera recalls in the book, published by Ricordi. "He found the strength to repeat it until he was completely satisfied. Then, he fell back on his wheelchair and closed his eyes, exhausted."

Magiera did not elaborate on why Pavarotti was using a wheelchair. He stood during the Turin performance.

Pavarotti's former manager, Terri Robson, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press that the decision lip-synch was made because of the cold during the outdoor evening event.

The singer was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the summer of 2006 as he was preparing to leave New York to resume a farewell tour. Pavarotti underwent surgery in New York in early July, and his remaining 2006 concerts were canceled.

Earlier that year, Pavarotti postponed five June dates because of what was described as complications from back surgery. He canceled eight concerts in April, saying he had been advised not to travel or perform while undergoing back treatment.

Robson said the tenor's voice was "in great shape ... but because of the extreme late-night temperature in Turin in February, for both him and the orchestra, it was decided that the only way to make it work was for him to pre-record."

Pavarotti lip-synched a performance in 1992 in Modena, drawing heavy criticism.

His charismatic persona, ebullient showmanship, and powerful voice made him the most beloved and celebrated tenor since the great Caruso and one of the few opera singers to win crossover fame as a popular superstar.

He appeared in television commercials and sang in hugely lucrative mega-concerts outdoors and in stadiums around the world, also mingling with pop stars in his series of charity concerts, "Pavarotti & Friends."

"I wrote my book in a way that is generally accessible to the curious literate reader," Howe said. "And I think that's very important, and I wish more books were written that way."

"It's a special honor because it ties me even more to the country of which I'm now a citizen," said Friedlander, who became a U.S. citizen seven years ago and won the German Booksellers Association's 2007 Peace Prize for his work on documenting the Holocaust.

"I am surprised, grateful, overjoyed—and a little embarrassed to do this with my first book," said Matteson, a professor of English at John Jay College in New York City who added that his 14-year-old daughter was an inspiration.

"Not only did I understand parenting better after writing the book, but being a parent helped me to write the book."

Dylan's victory doesn't mean that the Pulitzers have forgotten classical composers. The competitive prize for music was given to David Lang's *The Little Match Girl Passion*, which opened last

fall at Carnegie Hall, where Dylan has also performed.

"Bob Dylan is the most frequently played artist in my household so the idea that I am honored at the same time as Bob Dylan, that is humbling," Lang told the AP.

Long after most of his contemporaries either died, left the business or held on by the ties of nostalgia, Dylan continues to tour almost continuously and release highly regarded CDs, most recently *Modern Times*. Fans, critics and academics have obsessed over his lyrics—even digging through his garbage for clues—since the mid-1960s, when such protest anthems as *Blowin' in the Wind* made Dylan a poet and prophet for a rebellious generation.

His songs include countless biblical references and he has claimed Chekhov, Walt Whitman and Jack Kerouac as influences. His memoir, *Chronicles, Volume One*, received a National Book Critics Circle nomination in 2005 and is widely acknowledged as the rare celebrity book that can be treated as literature.

According to publisher Simon & Schuster, Dylan is working on a second volume of memoirs. No release date has been set.

## A memoir coming from the son of Ariel Sharon

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The youngest son of former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is writing a book about his father. Gilad Sharon's memoir, "Sharon: A Leader and a Father," is tentatively scheduled to come out in 2010.

"Drawing from his father's extensive archives, a remarkable cache of private papers and correspondence to which only he has access, Sharon provides a candid look at his father's political legacy, surveying more than thirty years of leadership on a global stage," publisher HarperCollins said Monday in a statement.

According to HarperCollins, Gilad Sharon will offer "memorable portraits" of President Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and other leaders.

Ariel Sharon turned 80 in February, more than two years after he was rendered

comatose by a stroke while serving in Israel's top job. Sharon made his name as a daring and often insubordinate army officer, before turning to politics in the 1970s and becoming a hawkish lawmaker in the hardline Likud Party and one of the most enthu-

siastic supporters of the Israeli settlement movement.

In a dramatic change of direction, he pulled all of Israel's settlers and soldiers out of the Gaza Strip in 2005 while he was prime minister.

Sharon's eldest son, Omri, 43, re-



Gilad Sharon, a son of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, is seen in this November 24, 1999 file photo. AP

cently received a seven-month prison sentence after pleading guilty to illegal fundraising for his father's 1999 successful election campaign to win the leadership of Likud. The two brothers oversaw parts of the campaign and fundraising.



# Perez says sex scene was 'very awkward'

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Rosie Perez says shooting a steamy sex scene with her good friend John Leguizamo for their new movie, "The Take," was "very awkward."

"This is not my first time working with John, we are friends, I've known him very long. ... It was very easy working with him. We have an easy dialogue and between each other there is no ego, no competition," the 43-year-old actress told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

"It was in the sex scene between husband and wife that things started to go bad. ... It was the hardest scene, very difficult," she said. "I respect him so much and he respects me so much. I know his wife, he knew my husband and introduced me to my boyfriend. It was very awkward. Like brother and sister having to do a sex scene."

"The Take," directed by Brad Furman, opens Friday in New York and Los Angeles.

Perez plays Marina de la Pena, the wife of an armored-truck driver (Leguizamo) who



AP  
Rosie Perez arrives at the Los Angeles Film Festival Spirit of Independence Award ceremony in Los Angeles in this June 28, 2007, file photo.

struggles with rehabilitation and tracking down his assailant after a shooting.

"We have a great marriage in the beginning of the movie and I'm kind of a regular neighborhood wife. We go to church every Sunday, we enjoy our simple nice life, I'm a simple nice woman in love with her husband and children," said Perez, who was nominated for an Oscar for her supporting role in 1993's "Fearless."

Perez and Leguizamo, 43, managed to get through the scene by talking about their own experiences and about relationships in general.

"It took a lot to go there and be honest," she said. "He has a wonderful marriage, but even in a successful marriage you have times when things are not good and sometimes that plays in the bedroom. And we went for it."

Even though the experience was "shocking" for her, Perez said that "in the end, it was one of the best intimate scenes I've done."

## Bay City wants 2nd chance from Madonna

**BAY CITY, Mich. (AP)**—A city that more than two decades ago declined to honor Madonna with a key to the city wants the singer to give it a second chance.

Mayor Charles M. Brunner has written a letter inviting Madonna, who grew up in Bay City and the Detroit suburb of Rochester Hills, to accept a key to the city, The Bay City Times reported.

"We have always been proud of your accomplishments but recently your induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame reminded us that we need to honor you with the highest honor that Bay City can offer," the letter says.

The Associated Press sent an e-mail Saturday seeking comment from a publicist for the 49-year-old singer.

Madonna was considered for



AP  
Madonna walks on stage to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in New York, in this March 10, 2008, file photo.

the honor in 1985, but some thought she was too risqué, the newspaper said. It also said the

city in the late 1980s refused to accept a sculpture of Madonna from an Italian artist, citing a belief that her popularity would fade in time.

Now, Guy Greve, president of the Bay Arts Council, wants to commission an artist to sculpt a statue of Madonna.

"The local arts council would like to pay homage for her artistic contributions," he said. "I could see a sculpture of her in Bay City. One of Madonna's famous poses could be made into a sculpture."

City Commissioner Christopher J. Shannon, who fronts a local rock band, is planning a Madonna tribute album. He hopes to recruit local musicians to cover hits such as "Like a Virgin" and "Express Yourself."

Madonna's new album, "Hard Candy," will be released April 29.

## Radiohead to headline Lollapalooza fest

**CHICAGO (AP)**—Radiohead, Kanye West and Wilco are among the 90 bands and artists who will perform at this summer's Lollapalooza music festival.

The festival will open August 1st in Chicago's Grant Park, near Lake Michigan.

Festival founder Perry Farrell calls this year's lineup "a gorgeous array of talent."

Other acts scheduled to perform include Rage Against the Machine, Nine Inch Nails, Gnarls Barkley, Bloc Party, Lupe Fiasco, The Raconteurs, The Black Keys, Broken Social Scene, Cat Power and Mark Ronson.

## Donny and Marie to honor moms on TV show

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Donny and Marie Osmond will help salute the nation's moms as co-hosts of an NBC special scheduled for Mother's Day night, the network and Teleflora, the program's sponsor, have announced.

On "America's Favorite Mom," airing May 11, the Osmonds will crown a winner chosen online by viewer polling. The program will mark the holiday's centennial.

"When the concept was first presented to us—Donny and Marie on a Mother's Day special—I thought, 'Oh, everybody's gonna need an insulin shot,'" said Donny during a phone interview with The Associated Press. "But we're not just talking about traditional moms. It shows real moms in real situations, and with some of them, you think: How do they do it?"

"They're empowering for other women," sister Marie added. "They inspire other mothers to say, 'I'm not alone. I can get through this, too.'"

Nominations are being accepted through April 25 in the categories of single moms, working moms, stay-at-home moms, unconventional moms and military moms.

The 15 semifinalists will be profiled on NBC's "Today" show the week before Mother's Day, enabling the audience to



AP  
Donny and Marie Osmond joke during a taping of the Osmonds 50th anniversary show at the Orlean's casino in Las Vegas in this, Aug. 14, 2007, file photo.

choose the most deserving. The winner will get cash and prizes valued at "thousands of dollars," Teleflora said.

Donny and Marie, who since childhood have sung professionally both with and without their large family, recall early Mother's Day observances as somewhat nontraditional.

"We were touring," Donny said.

"It was the NON-holidays when we got to

celebrate things," Marie agreed. "But mama was always honored in our home."

Besides their co-hosting duties on the special, Donny and Marie will do a musical number.

"Marie picked out the song," Donny said.

"It was a mutual decision," she argued.

So what's the song going to be?

"I don't know," Marie teased.

## Teen twins are waging a war for independence

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**DEAR ABBY:** My 13-year-old twin daughters were very close, considered each other their "best friend" and got along beautifully sharing a room. Disagreements and arguments were rare and nearly always minor.

However, during the last few months, out of the blue, they have begun fighting and arguing frequently. They scream and yell at each other over the pettiest of things. Instead of being constant companions, they no longer want to do anything together.

Now they spend time separately with friends. They are even asking us to get a bigger house so they can have separate rooms. They refuse to share the bathroom in the morning—which had never been a problem before—claiming to need privacy from each other. This makes things very difficult during the morning rush because we also have a 15-year-old son who needs to get ready for school.

I am at my wit's end trying to deal with this. I have no idea what caused this sudden rift, and the girls don't seem to understand it either. Please help.

—LOUISIANA MOM OF 3

**DEAR LOUISIANA MOM:** What's causing the rift is that your daughters are maturing. Their hormones are changing, and they are trying to become individuals. This is a healthy thing, and you should not worry.

As to the scheduling problem in the bathroom—if the girls won't cooperate and share the facilities, then they will have to alternate. And your job as mother and referee is to see that they do.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently visited my favorite brother and his family for a few days. My sister-in-law invited me to go out for coffee with her—just the two of us—then proceeded to tell me in great detail about an affair she had about a year ago. I was floored.

My brother doesn't know about this, and now this information is haunting me. If my brother knew my husband had cheated and didn't tell me, I'd be furious. On the other hand, telling my brother will hurt him. What should I do?

—BURDENED IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR BURDENED:** Ask yourself this question—if you wanted to keep an infidelity from your spouse, would you confide "in great detail" in his sibling? If the answer is no, then consider that your sister-in-law is either completely lacking in judgment or subconsciously aching to get caught. Then follow your conscience.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I would appreciate your opinion on a matter that has me concerned. My son and his wife have gone on a trip to Africa. I am watching the grandchildren part of the time while their parents are gone.

The night before my son left, I said, "To be prudent and prepared in case of emergency, in the event you have an accident, who will be the permanent guardians for these children?" His reply was, "That is none of your business. It is a personal matter."

Was I out of bounds to ask that question?

—GUILT-RIDDEN IN REDMOND, WASH.

**DEAR GUILT-RIDDEN:** Absolutely not. Your question was a timely and intelligent one. A more pertinent question would now be why your son became defensive that you asked. Could it be that he feels guilty because the answer is you will not be named as guardian?

If that's the case, then some written provision should be made specifying that if anything happens to him and your daughter-in-law, you will have visitation with your grandchildren—because unless it is on paper, there is no guarantee you will.

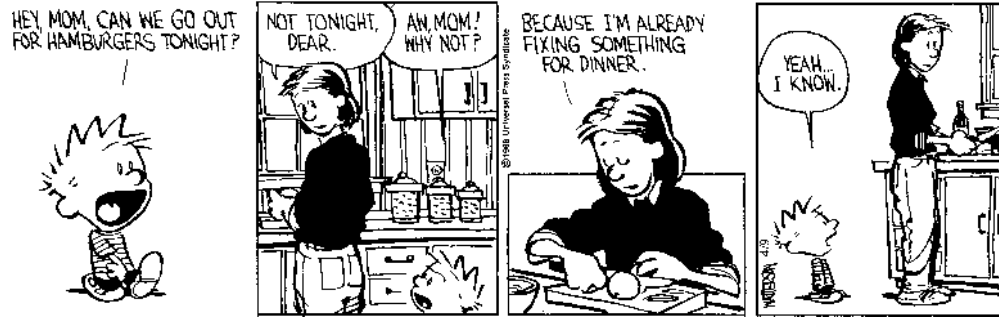
■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

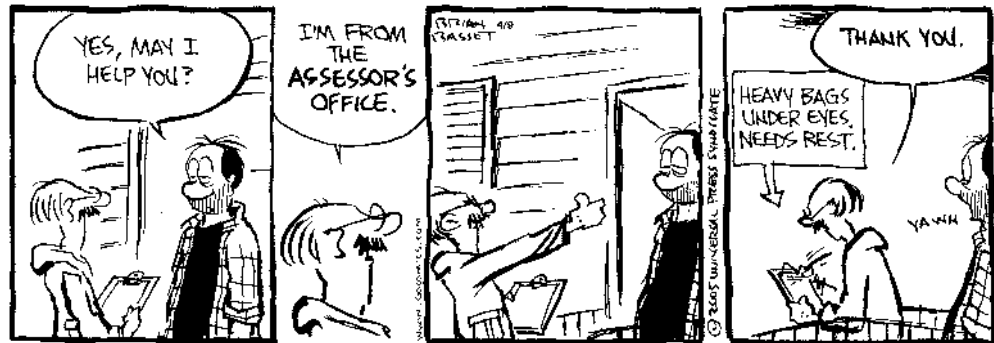


# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



## Adam@home



## Garfield®



## The Duplex



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

26 Skeletal  
1 Dine  
4 Flow  
stopper  
7 Bart's  
sister  
8 Delight  
in  
10 Grains,  
in a  
way  
11 Wears  
down  
13 Bird  
tally,  
in rhyme  
16 Recipe  
meas.  
17 School-  
room  
session  
18 Pair  
with an  
air  
19 Timely  
question  
20 "I Am  
Sam" star  
21 Actress  
Garson  
23 Big  
name  
in mail  
order  
25 Versifier

**DOWN**

19 Drenched  
20 Remu-  
neration  
21 Boarded  
22 Make  
up  
for  
what  
you  
lost  
23 Mine-  
strone,  
for  
one  
24 Subju-  
gate  
25 Cribbage  
scorer  
26 Presaged  
28 Glazier's  
sheets  
29 Old  
Peru-  
vians  
30 Stuffed,  
baked  
dough  
31 Sicilian  
spouter  
32 Nay  
canceller  
34 Chip's  
pal  
35 Send  
forth

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | W | I | M | C | L | F | P | E | A | S |
| H | I | D | E | M | I | L | H | A | N | I |
| A | R | E | A | B | R | U | N | E | T | T |
| D | E | A | D | S | E | A | S | S | E | T |
| S | P | A | W | N | B | R | O | O | D | E |
| O | A | R | S | U | E | N | N |   |   |   |
| R | R | F | W | E | R | P | A | N | D | A |
| A | O | R | T | A | C | O | W | P | O | K |
| B | R | O | U | H | A | H | A | A | R | I |
| B | A | S | S | L | A | C | L | E | S | S |
| A | A | I | H | I | H | I | O | S | I |   |

Yesterday's answer 4-9

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Kesha Knight Pulliam, 29; Austin Peck, 37; Cynthia Nixon, 42; Dennis Quaid, 54

**Happy Birthday:** It will be the well-planned, organized ideas that make the most difference in your life this year. Emotional matters will slow you down if you let them. Instead, throw yourself into something that will help you advance physically, personally, professionally and financially and feel the satisfaction of accomplishment. Your numbers are 5, 12, 23, 26, 36, 40

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't be fooled by what someone says. Separate your emotions from work or school projects or you may fall short of your goals. A little creative accounting will help you financially when you need a little extra cash. \*\*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Drum up whatever help you can get. You can offer your idea to someone who can give you hands-on assistance but don't give away too much in return. This is not the time to exaggerate. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Network or socialize and you will hook up with interesting people who will influence your life. Love is looking positive and the action you take today could very well lead to a better relationship with someone important to you. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Too much talk will lead to trouble. Someone will try to trick you into divulging information that may hurt you later on. Listen and gather all the information you can to keep the upper hand. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You can dance your way to victory today with your charm, fun-loving attitude and entertaining way of dealing with others. A fresh approach to love will change a ho-hum relationship into something spectacular. Learn from past mistakes and you will succeed. \*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Don't be too trusting with your cash or possessions. Someone is likely to take advantage of you, playing on your sensitivity to a situation that you are trying to resolve. If someone is asking for a handout or donation, refuse. \*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Mix fun with a little serious discussion about your future plans and you will grab the attention of someone who can help you. Love is a big draw today and, the more you do to enhance a relationship that means something to you, the better your future will be. \*\*\*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Make whatever adjustments are required at home in order to get more accomplished. A home office will help you make extra cash or get into something that will help you enhance your skills. Money is in the picture. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Give yourself a chance to catch up at home. Today is the perfect time to finish personal business. Someone may get a little upset with you but you have to make the alterations necessary to save money and your emotional well-being. \*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Things won't

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



run smoothly today so you may as well kick back and take a break. You owe it to yourself to enjoy the company of friends or to take a mini vacation. Love issues may arise if you have neglected your personal duties. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Put time and effort into your surroundings. Adding comfort or a luxury item to your home will bring rewards in the way you are treated by friends and family. Love is looking good. \*\*\*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't be fooled by someone who is being overly nice to you. Be careful not to show your emotions if you want to come out on top. Accepting someone's offer to help will end up costing you dearly in the future. You won't get something for nothing. \*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are changeable, creative and act impulsively. You are headstrong, a doer and a great friend and companion. You embrace life.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 2 |
|   |   |   | 3 | 8 |   |   |   | 5 |
|   |   | 6 |   |   | 2 |   |   | 8 |
|   | 9 | 5 | 7 |   |   | 8 |   |   |
| 7 |   |   |   | 1 |   | 2 |   |   |
|   | 3 | 2 | 5 |   |   | 9 |   | 7 |
|   | 4 |   | 1 |   |   | 6 |   | 3 |
|   |   | 3 |   |   | 4 | 5 |   | 1 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | 4 | 7 |   |

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/09

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| 7 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 5 |
| 9 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| 2 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 3 |
| 4 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 1 |
| 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 4 |

Difficulty Level \*\*

4/09

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them, and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CORPORATE MERGERS

Solution: 9 letters

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| C | P | I | N | T | E | R | N | A | T | I | O | N | A | L |  |
| A | O | P | P | O | R | T | U | N | I | T | Y | A | G | K |  |
| S | O | S | L | E | V | E | R | T | I | C | A | L | R | F |  |
| H | L | O | E | B | E | N | E | F | I | T | S | O | E | F |  |
| N | I | I | V | X | T | E | V | E | N | T | W | A | E | A |  |
| O | N | B | A | E | A | G | O | R | O | R | D | R | M | T |  |
| I | G | R | L | T | R | T | E | C | E | V | I | E | S |   |  |
| T | A | O | U | E | E | L | K | P | A | H | R | M | N | S |  |
| A | S | S | E | G | M | D | A | N | U | U | B | A | T | E |  |
| I | S | B | R | O | O | P | T | P | T | S | Y | N | T | N |  |
| T | E | A | T | U | L | A | L | L | P | D | H | S | E | I |  |
| O | T | I | N | A | G | G | U | A | M | I | E | L | A | S |  |
| G | V | I | W | E | N | C | M | E | N | V | N | T | B | N |  |
| E | O | S | S | C | O | M | B | I | N | E | T | G | T | B |  |
| N | O | I | T | A | C | I | F | I | S | R | E | V | I | D |  |

©2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com

4/9

Absorb, Advantages, Agreement, Asset, Benefits, Business, Cash, Combine, Conglomerate, Culture, Debt, Details, Diversification, Event, Hire, Hybrid, International, Invest, Laws, Lever, Motive, Name, Negotiation, Opportunity, Overlapping, Paperwork, Plan, Pooling, Push, Sale, Sing, Staff, Stock, Takeover, Target, Taxes, Union, Value, Vertical

Yesterday's Answer: Discipline

Treasury 5 in hotel San Francisco; money order for \$10.95 each plus \$5.00 postage and handling each (11-23 total each). U.S. funds only. For the first volume, \$10.95 for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 4800 West 5th, Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call 1-800-228-2744, ext. 3395. Order online at [wonderword.com](http://wonderword.com).

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-228-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.







# Riley, Vitale, Olajuwon, Ewing in Hall



## SAN ANTONIO

(AP)—Broadcaster Dick Vitale, a man who had limited success as a coach but brought the game of basketball to millions of TV watchers, was selected to the game's Hall of Fame on Monday alongside Pat Riley, one of the most successful NBA coaches of all time.

Overcome with emotion, Vitale broke into tears during the announcement in San Antonio, site of the NCAA Men's Final Four.

"I can't run, can't jump, can't shoot, but just have had a tremendous—I'd like to think—passion about the game," said Vitale, who had a short stint as an NBA coach in the late 1970s but made his name as a college basketball analyst.

Others in the Class of 2008 were Hakeem Olajuwon and Patrick Ewing, two greats who battled on the court for years; player Adrian Dantley; coach Cathy Rush; and William Davidson, owner of the Detroit Pistons since 1974.

Over the decades, Vitale created his own lexicon with phrases such as "Get a T-O, baby," "You're a P-T-Per," and "Awesome, baby."

Monday, he said he "cried like a baby" upon learning of his selection and thanked Hall of Fame coach Bob Knight—now a fellow ESPN analyst—for spearheading a letter-writing campaign on his behalf.

"When I saw those letters, whether I'd ever gotten in the Hall of Fame or not, that was going to be my hall of fame," said the 68-year-old who was forced off-air for two months after throat surgery.



Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame inductees Dick Vitale, left to right, Cathy Rush, Pat Riley, Hakeem Olajuwon, Patrick Ewing and Adrian Dantley are seen at a news conference Monday, April 7, 2008, in San Antonio.

No matter how strong their credentials, each member of the Class of 2008 seemed a bit star-struck.

Riley, the third-winningest NBA coach ever, called his election "unbelievable, absolutely unbelievable."

Riley won four NBA titles with the Los Angeles Lakers, then grabbed another one two years ago with Miami. He also has one championship as an assistant and another as a player.

"Last night I lost my 64th game of the regular season," he said, referring to the Heat's current struggles. "And

the next day I'm in the Hall of Fame. I think there's an integrity in the Hall of Fame that far surpasses whatever your record is, if you have a body of work."

The new class, which Riley joked will be the best-promoted ever because of Vitale's inclusion, will be inducted Sept. 5 in Springfield, Mass., home of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Olajuwon and Ewing both played in three Final Fours, with Ewing's Georgetown team beating Olajuwon's Houston squad for the 1984 national

championship.

"We both are warriors. We both want to excel. We both wanted to dominate, and when you play against the best you want to perform at your best" Ewing said. "So we both definitely looked at each other as the best."

Olajuwon got his revenge as a pro, leading the Houston Rockets to the first of two straight titles with a seven-game victory over Ewing's New York Knicks in the 1994 NBA finals—a team coached by Riley.

"Growing up in Nigeria I didn't re-

ally understand the magnitude of what it means to be a hall of famer," said Olajuwon, a 12-time All-Star. "I still cannot believe that I'm in the same company with all these great legends."

Ewing, the Knicks' all-time leader in points, rebounds, blocked shots, and steals, among other categories, remembered field trips to the Hall of Fame as a child and said he never imagined being a part of it.

"And now I am," he said.

Dantley, a six-time NBA All-Star, played for seven teams during his 15-year NBA career, including Davidson's Detroit Pistons.

"To be included as a member of this elite group of men and women that have made significant contributions to the sport of basketball, I'm grateful," Davidson said in a statement.

Hall of Famer Joe Dumars, who works for the 85-year-old Davidson as the Pistons' president of basketball operations and played with Dantley in Detroit, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press: "I can't think of two more deserving people than Bill Davidson and Adrian Dantley."

Dantley was a finalist six times before finally making it in - more than anyone in the current class.

"It happened," he said. "It took a long time, but it happened."

Rush certainly understands.

She led Immaculata University to three consecutive AIAW national championships from 1972 to 1974, won 149 games in seven seasons and lost just 15 - a .908 winning percentage.

A five-time finalist before her election, she joked she'd lost more nominations to the Hall of Fame than games.

"Being here with coaches and players, all of us as coaches know that we're good coaches when we have good players, and we're great coaches when we have great players," Rush said. "And I had some great players."

## Burrell hits pair of homers to power Phillies past Cincinnati



## CINCINNATI

(AP)—Pat Burrell hit two of Philadelphia's four homers off Bronson Arroyo, a power splurge that swept Philadelphia to a 5-3 victory Monday and a split of their four-game series with the Cincinnati Reds.

Jimmy Rollins and Geoff Jenkins also homered off Arroyo (0-1), who had never before given up more than three in a game.

Left-hander Cole Hamels (1-0) overcame a maddening first, when the Reds scored two runs with the help of a walk and an error. Hamels gave up five hits and three walks in seven innings.

## Cubs 10, Pirates 8, 12 innings

In Pittsburgh, Aramis Ramirez's sacrifice fly scored the go-ahead run during a two-run 12th inning in which the Cubs didn't have a hit off rookie Evan Meek, and Chicago rallied after squandering a seven-run lead to win Pittsburgh's home opener.

Former starter Jon Lieber (1-1) gave a depleted bullpen a big lift with three scoreless innings before Carlos Marmol finished up in the 12th for his first save since June 27, helping the Cubs win their third in the row.

## Padres 8, Giants 4

In San Francisco, Greg Maddux earned his 348th career win in Major League Baseball, Adrian Gonzalez went 4-for-5 with a homer and four runs, and San Diego spoiled San Francisco's home opener.

Maddux (1-0) gave up one run and three hits in seven innings, and has won six straight decisions against San Francisco since 2003. He retired 19 of his final 20 batters after giving up an RBI single to Bengie Molina in the first—the only run the Giants have scored before the fifth inning this season.

## Astros 5, Cardinals 3

At Houston, Miguel Tejada's two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth gave Houston the win, snapping St. Louis' winning streak at five games.

Tejada's home run to right field off Kyle McClellan (0-1) scored pinch runner Darin Erstad.

The Astros led 3-0 before the Cardinals three-hit ninth inning. Ryan Ludwick's two-out, two RBI double off closer Jose Valverde (2-0) tied it at 3 in the top of the ninth. Cesar Izturis scored easily on the hit to right center field.

Back-to-back homers by Lance Berkman and Carlos Lee

broke a scoreless tie in the seventh inning. Astros catcher J.R. Towles added a run with a solo homer to left field off Kelvin Jimenez in the eighth inning.

## Rockies 2, Braves 1

At Denver, Matt Holliday hit a two-run home run in the bottom of the eighth, Aaron Cook pitched seven strong innings and Colorado edged Atlanta to snap a five-game losing streak.

Tom Glavine gave up three hits in 6 1-3 shutout innings but got his second straight no-decision, despite owning a 0.79 ERA in two starts.

The game took just 2:05 to play, the shortest nine-inning game in Coors Field history.

Matt Herges (1-0) got the victory in relief of Cook, and Manny Corpas got his second save of the season.

## Marlins 10, Nationals 7

At Washington, Hanley Ramirez, Dan Uggla and Robert Andino homered, and four Florida relievers combined for 5 2-3 innings of one-run ball.

The Nationals dropped their fifth consecutive game after a 3-0 start, guilty of some sloppy fielding that led to six unearned runs at a less-than-half-full \$611 million Nationals Park.

Florida improved to 4-3

thanks in large part to putting up five runs off Tim Lincecum (1-1) in the third inning. All the scoring was unearned, because of shortstop Cristian Guzman's throwing error, and the big blow was Ramirez's three-run homer.

## Diamondbacks 9, Dodgers 3

At Phoenix, Mark Reynolds hit two of Arizona's four home runs, and the Diamondbacks won their home opener to stretch their winning streak to four games.

Orlando Hudson had a two-run homer, and Chris Young added a solo shot and an RBI single after agreeing to a six-year contract extension earlier in the day.

Dan Haren gave up three runs—one earned—in six innings to get his first Arizona victory. Haren (1-0), acquired in a trade with Oakland in the off-season, allowed six hits, struck out five and walked none.

## White Sox 7, Twins 4

At Chicago, Joe Crede hit a tie-breaking grand slam to cap a five-run seventh inning, and the Chicago White Sox won its home opener over the Minnesota Twins.

Coming off a weekend sweep at Detroit, Chicago has won five straight for the first time since Aug. 10-14, 2006. The White Sox have won six of their last

seven home openers.

Jermaine Dye tied the score at 3 with a one-out RBI single off Pat Neshek, who had just relieved Matt Guerrier (0-1). A.J. Pierzynski struck out, and Carlos Quentin loaded the bases with a single. Crede drove a 1-0 pitch to the bullpen in left for the fifth slam, his first in Major League Baseball since June 24, 2006, against Houston.

## Yankees 6, Rays 1

At New York, Mike Mussina tied Bob Gibson on the career wins list by pitching six sharp innings, Bobby Abreu hit a two-run homer and New York beat Tampa Bay.

Abreu went 3-for-3 with a walk and Hideki Matsui drove in two runs for the Yankees, who lost Derek Jeter after two innings but salvaged a split of the four-game series.

Jonny Gomes homered for the Rays, who are 3-3 heading into their home opener against Seattle on Tuesday.

Jason Hammel (0-1) allowed eight hits and four runs in six innings. He struck out two and walked one.

## Orioles 5, Mariners 4

In Baltimore, Aubrey Huff homered to break an eighth-inning tie, and the Orioles completed their first four-game sweep of Seattle

since 1999.

Melvin Mora also homered, and Brian Roberts had three hits for the Orioles, who improved to an American League-best 5-1. The Mariners, last in the AL West, fell to 2-5.

Ichiro Suzuki opened the game with his 26th career lead-off homer and singled in the seventh for his 1,600th hit. Raul Ibanez homered and drove in two runs for Seattle.

## Angels 6, Indians 4

At Anaheim, California, Torii Hunter hit a grand slam with one out in the ninth inning after Cleveland scored three runs in the top half off closer Francisco Rodriguez, lifting the Angels to a win over Cleveland.

Jonny Peralta doubled home the go-ahead run off Rodriguez in a three-run ninth as Cleveland took a 4-2 lead before the Angels rallied against Indians closer Joe Borowski (0-1).

The right-hander surrendered a one-out walk to Gary Matthews Jr., a single to Vladimir Guerrero and another walk to Garret Anderson before Hunter drove a 1-0 pitch just inside the left field pole for his 10th career slam.

Hunter also homered in the eighth inning, off reliever Rafael Betancourt, to put the Angels ahead 2-1.



# Gordon to leave Hoosiers for NBA draft



**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—Indiana freshman Eric Gordon is entering the NBA draft.

While he has not yet signed with an agent, his father, Eric Gordon Sr., said he intended to sign with one, which would officially end his college eligibility.

The move was expected long before Gordon made the announcement Monday. When he joined the Hoosiers, many people predicted the 6-foot-4 guard with the nifty moves and NBA 3-point range would go straight to the league after one college season. He's projected as a top-10 pick in the June draft.

"I'm doing this to compete at the highest level, not for the fame or the money," Gordon said during a news conference. "I just had a couple of weeks to really think

about this after the season, and now is the right time to do it."

Gordon, a third-team All-American, is the second member of the heralded 2008 freshman class to declare for the draft, joining Arizona's Jerryd Bayless. Those who have not yet announced whether they will turn pro include centers Michael Beasley of Kansas State and Kevin Love of UCLA, both first-team All-Americans; Memphis guard Derrick Rose, a third-team All-American; and guard O.J. Mayo of Southern Cal, who was an honorable mention choice on the All-American list.

Gordon led the Big Ten in scoring (20.9 points), set school and Big Ten freshman scoring records with 669 points, and made the third most free throws by a Hoosier in a single season (231). He also tied Mike Woodson's school record

for most 30-point games by a freshman (three) and won the conference's freshman player of the year award.

But after injuring his left wrist during a practice in late January, Gordon was not the same player. His shooting percentage dropped and he committed more turnovers.

Gordon's decision comes after a tumultuous season at Indiana in which the Hoosiers' 25-8 record was overshadowed by Kelvin Sampson's midseason resignation, the promotion of Dan Dakich to interim coach, three player suspensions and a first-round loss to Arkansas in the NCAA tournament.

If Gordon stays in the draft, new coach Tom Crean will open next season trying to replace at least three starters and possibly all five. Forwards D.J. White and Lance Stemler were both seniors, and

Dakich kicked guards Armon Bassett and Jamarcus Ellis off the team last Tuesday, just before Crean's hiring.

Crean, the Hoosiers' third coach in two months, will decide whether to reinstate Bassett, Ellis or both.

Gordon appeared that he would be the latest big Indiana high school star to spurn the in-state schools when he orally committed to Illinois as a junior. The recent list includes Greg Oden and Mike Conley Jr., who both left Ohio State after one college season, Josh McRoberts, Dominic James and Sean May.

But Sampson continued recruiting the flashy guard and in October 2006, Gordon announced he would sign with the Hoosiers, prompting a raucous response when he showed up for Indiana's Midnight Madness.

## Marquette replaces Crean with assistant

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Marquette picked assistant coach Brent "Buzz" Williams on Monday to replace Tom Crean, who left last week to become coach at Indiana.

Assistant athletic director Scott Kuykendall said the university scheduled a news conference for Tuesday to introduce Williams as the new head coach.

Williams led Marquette's recruiting efforts as an assistant to Crean last season.

He joined Crean's staff last July after one year as head coach at the University of New Orleans.

Before that, Williams was an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator for two seasons at Texas A&M under coach Billy Gillispie.

Boston Celtics coach and former Marquette star Doc Rivers said late last week that Williams would be a "terrific" replacement for Crean, who led the program for the past nine years.

Williams' talent as a recruiter and his connection with the program have been seen as strengths that could calm some of the incoming recruits who might be wavering on their commitment to Marquette with Crean's departure.

Guards Dominic James and Jerel McNeal are considering entering the NBA draft, but there's a good chance they will return next season to anchor the team.

# Jaguars hand David Garrard \$60M extension



**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** (AP)—Quarterback David Garrard probably could have gotten the Jacksonville Jaguars to pay him more money.

But he was tired of negotiating.

So Garrard ended the contract process Monday, signing a seven-year, \$60 million contract that is the richest in franchise history.

"I pretty much had to say, 'Let's go ahead and wrap it up. I'm done,'" Garrard said. "It's too much stress on me and my family. My wife was done five weeks ago. She's already been on board with everything. We just kept working on it and I finally just said, 'You know what, I'd rather be happy now, have the

city happy now, have the team, the organization, the owner happy now than trying to string something out having everybody on edge."

Garrard and his agent, Albert Irby, had been seeking something similar to the six-year, \$67.5 million contract Dallas quarterback Tony Romo signed last season.

But Garrard settled for the latest offer because he "felt like it was time."

"I've just seen it too many times," he said. "I just didn't want to go through it myself. There's way too many things that can happen to you between here and now and when you're trying to get this done and that done. Is it really worth it? I just said, 'It's time to make everybody happy

because I was already happy.'"

A career backup who beat out Byron Leftwich last preseason, Garrard was entering the final year of a four-year deal that paid about \$2 million annually.

The Jaguars were eager to get him under contract after his first season as a starter.

The 30-year-old Garrard completed 64 percent of his passes for 2,509 yards and 18 touchdowns despite missing three games because of an ankle injury. He threw just three interceptions and finished with the NFL's third-highest passer rating (102.2), proving coach Jack Del Rio made the right move when he announced his quarterback decision a week before the season opener.

"When you look at what transpired

and how David responded, I think that's what's most impressive," Del Rio said. "A lot of people may have gotten down, gotten down on themselves, gotten bitter at me for the decision. Any number of things could have taken place that would have led to a different outcome."

"What you see is a young man that persevered, ultimately a coach that saw something, took a shot with him, and now we're together here for the foreseeable future here in Jacksonville, and tied together and hungry for more."

The Jaguars expect Garrard to be even better this season, with the addition of receivers Jerry Porter and Troy Williamson and another year in Dirk Koetter's offense.

## Now In Stock!

**\$10**

**\$10**

## Brings It Home!

**20" LCD Televisions**

**\$10**

**\$10**

**\$10**

## Now In Stock!



**No Credit Checks!**

**No Repair Bills!**

**No Long Term Obligations!**

**234-RENT SAIPAN**

Middle Road, Gualo Rai next to Subway.









# Scaled down Micro Games in 2010

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Expect a scaled-down 7th Micronesian Games in 2010 after the Marshall Islands could not put up the same Games like the previous ones held in other member island nations.

The Micronesian Games Council has awarded the hosting rights of the 2010 Micronesian Games to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, bringing the seventh edition of the quadrennial event to Majuro.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael A. White said that representatives of the Marshall Islands, Palau, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the CNMI, Kiribati, and Nauru held an informal meeting last month during the Oceania National Olympic Committee meeting in Fiji.

White said Marshall Islands National Olympic Committee secretary general Terry Sasser told the group that they are committed to put up a Micro Games but could not host the way like Saipan did in 2006.

Saipan hosted the 6th Micro Games where athletics, baseball, basketball, fast-pitch softball, golf, Micronesian All-Around, outrigger canoeing, swimming, table tennis, tennis, triathlon, underwater spearfishing, volleyball—beach and indoor—and wrestling were the offered events.

Sasser said during their meeting that the Games would be scaled down since they could not offer too many sports because they don't have the facilities to hold the events.

"If the Micro Games pushes through at the Marshall Islands it would be a pretty stunted version," said White.



White

He added Sasser would inform the nine other member nations of the MGC in the next two weeks about the status of the 2010 Micro Games in the Marshall Islands.

If the Marshall Islands would back out of hosting the Micro Games Palau, which hosted the 2005 Pacific Mini Games and Guam, which hosted the 1994 edition, are willing to take charge of holding the Games.

The Marshall Islands bested the FSM's Yap in earning the hosting rights of the 7th Micro Games. Kosrae also submitted their bid to host the 2010 Micro Games but pulled out early last year due to funding problems.

The Marshall Islands earned the most number of votes from representatives from the CNMI, Palau, Kiribati, Yap, the Marshall Islands, Guam, Chuuk, Kosrae, and Pohnpei.

## Tigers snap skid, beat Komoro

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Bob O'Connor-backed Tigers finally ended its four-game slide, beating a much younger Komoro side, 8-7, in Monday night's game in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

First baseman Manny Cabrera played the hero's role when he chased Jo Jin Wook's high fly ball as he almost crashed at the right field fence just to catch the ball for the third out.

The Tigers, who won the 2007 Masters Baseball League title, were holding on to a one-run lead at the top of the ninth when pitcher Ben Duenas walked lead off batter Hyung Joo Kim, who stole second and third to move the tying run 90-feet away from home plate.

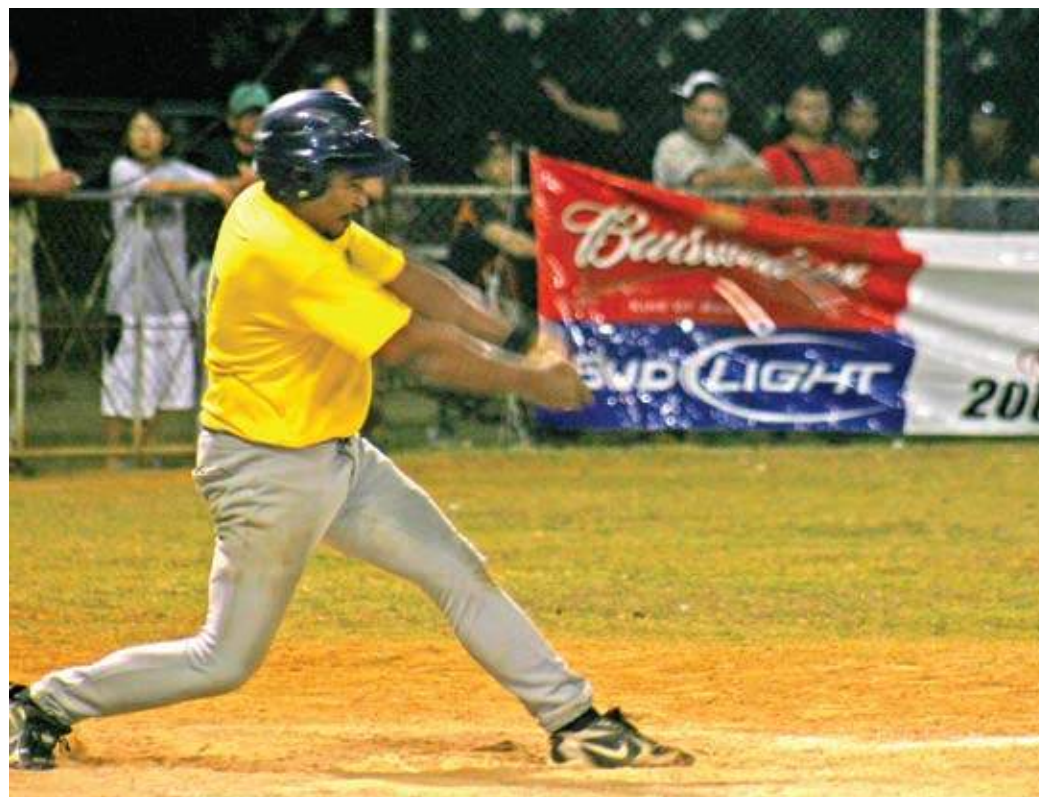
Jeremy Kosiro struck out swinging while record-breaking pitcher Jae Young Kim walked and stole second base. Both runners remained stranded on base when Duenas struck out Jung Hoon Tae for the second out.

It was up to Wook to bring either Hyung Joo Kim and Jae Young Kim or both runners home.

Wook foul tips Duenas' first pitch, then waited for a ball before the Tigers' veteran hurler threw a strike. Duenas threw back-to-back balls then Wook connected on the sixth pitch on a high fly ball, which Cabrera caught as collided with the right field fence.

Duenas pitched 2.2 innings in relief with two hits, two strikeouts, and two walks. Ed Santos had his first start of the season and lasted for 6.3 innings giving up six hits with seven strikeouts and six walks.

Tony Pangelinan went 3-for-4 with two runs,



JON PEREZ

Mabel Ngirngemelas connects on a single in the first inning of their game against Komoro in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League on Monday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

and a double for the Tigers.

Jin Taek Lim, Hyung Joo Kim, Jang Jun Hyuk, and Jae Young Kim alternated the pitching duties for Komoro and gave up a combined six hits with 11 strikeouts and six walks.

Last Friday, Ray Guerrero went perfect at the plate while Dung Tenorio pitched four innings to help the Ford Rangers score a 19-8 win over the Korean Dreams.

Guerrero went 5-for-5 with four runs, a double, three stolen bases, and an RBI. Robert Bansil went

2-for-3 with two runs, a double, and two RBIs. Pete Tomokane also had two RBIs while Ben Tagabuel and Clifton Silil drove in a run each.

Tenorio lasted four innings on the mound for the Rangers allowing seven hits with three strikeouts and no walks while Franco Flores closed out pitching three two-hit innings with four strikeouts and one walk to preserve the win.

The Dreams try to bounce back with the loss when they face the still winless Kabur at 6:30pm today.

## Homers help DCCA oust Finance, 22-12

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Home runs helped defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs score a 22-12 win over Department of Finance in the playoff round of the women's division in the Inter-government Softball League on Monday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

DCCA eliminated Finance, which won the women's title in 2004, at the start of the league's playoff round. One loss and you are out in the women's while the men's play a double-elimination round.

Bert Camacho blasted an inside-the-park home run to lead DCCA's 10-run third inning scoring as

they advanced to the next round. Jovie Omar added a three-run inside-the-park four-bagger in the third to go with her two doubles and four RBIs.

Doris Rangamar went 4-for-5 with a double and a solo inside the park round-tripper in the sixth. Abby also had an inside-the-park homer to go with her four RBIs.

### CUC 15, P&S 5

In the men's division, Ed Kapileo belted a sixth inning three-run homer to lead Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to a 15-5 dumping of Procurement and Supply. He went 3-for-4 with two runs and five RBIs.

Robert Camacho went 2-for-3 with two runs, two RBIs and an inside-the-park home run.

### Legislature 8, Labor 5

A five-run third inning helped Legislature pull off

an 8-5 triumph over Department of Labor.

Dennis Cabrera went 3-for-4 with one run and a third inning bases-clearing double. Paul Lizama, 3-for-4, had two doubles, scored one run, and had one RBI.

### CHC 8, Law & Order 6

Ken Kalen went perfect at the plate going 3-for-3 with two runs and three RBIs to help Commonwealth Health Center to an 8-6 decision against Law & Order.

Kalen connected with a two-RBI double in CHC's six-run first inning and belted a solo homer in the second.

Frank Shiro also went 3-for-3 with one run and a two-RBI double in the first while Randal Aguon, 2-for-3, scored a run and had a double.

Yap was supposed to host the 6th Micronesian Games in 2006, but had to withdraw after most of its sports facilities were damaged by a strong typhoon that hit the island in early 2004.

Saipan sent its intention to take over the hosting of the 6th Micro Games during the VII South Pacific Mini Games in Koror, Palau in 2005. The MGC finally awarded the hosting to the CNMI before the end of 2005 and in June 2006, Saipan welcomed more than 1,000 athletes and officials from eight other Micronesian islands.

The Marshall Islands is also the newest member of the International Olympic Committee in the Micronesia region. Palau, Guam, FSM, Nauru, and Kiribati are also IOC members.

The Marshall Islands, a former U.S. territory, became the 203rd IOC member on Feb. 12. The IOC accepted the islands' National Olympic Committee in an executive board meeting during the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy.

## NMA releases rules for qualifiers, coaches meeting tomorrow

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics released some guidelines for next week's start of the preliminary trials for next month's 4th Annual McDonald's All-Schools Track and Field Championship at the Oleai track facility inside the Susupe Sports Complex.

A coaches meeting is scheduled tomorrow, April 10, at 4pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room. NMA officials are requiring all coaches to attend the meeting.

Athletes are allowed to participate in only four events and more than the specified number would disqualify the said athlete in all events that he competed in. No event will be canceled to accommodate athletes participating in two events at the same time.

Scoring will be as follows: 1st place, 10 points; 2nd, eight points; 3rd, six points; 4th, three points; 5th, two points; and 6th, one point. Athletes need to finish in the top six in order to qualify for Saipan in the McDonald's All-Schools Championships since the other two slots are reserved for Rota and Tinian athletes.

In the event Rota and Tinian athletes failed to field participants in an event, the next finisher will be awarded the spot.

A call room will also be put up during the preliminaries where athletes need to report with the race marshal. Failure to do so before the second call is made will result in the athlete being scratched from the event. Coaches are advised to observe this rule.

Any protest should be lodged with the referees as per IAAF Rule 146. Appeals should be made in writing on an appeal form, which can be collected at the information tent.

The trials in the elementary division will be from April 14 to 16 while the junior high and high schools will be from April 21 to 23.

NMA president Kurt Barnes will be the field events referee with NMA vice president Lou Wabol as the starter. Coaches Ron Olopai and Robin Sapong, who is also the NMA secretary general, will act as the field events judge and head timer at the finish line, while NMA development officer Elias Rangamar will be the race marshal. Rep. Ramon Ray Tebuteb is the events' announcer.





Expect a scaled-down 7th Micronesian Games in 2010 after the Marshall Islands could not put up the same Games like the previous ones held in other member island nations.

Broadcaster Dick Vitale, a man who had limited success as a coach but brought the game of basketball to millions of TV watchers, was selected to the game's Hall of Fame.



## Kansas surges past Memphis to NCAA title

By EDDIE PELLIS  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

**S**AN ANTONIO (AP)—So patient for 20 years, Kansas had no problem working an extra five minutes to bring a long-awaited championship back to the heartland.

Mario Chalmers hit a 3-pointer with 2.1 seconds left in regulation to push the game into overtime, and the Jayhawks grinded it out from there for a 75-68 victory Monday night over Memphis in one of the best title games in recent memory.

Chalmers' shot pulled Kansas into a tie after being down nine with 2:12 left. Memphis left the door open by missing four free throws down the stretch. And in a game where every point counted, Derrick Rose's two-point shot off glass that was initially ruled a 3—and correctly overturned—also made a difference.

Chalmers' 3-pointer was never in doubt.

"We got the ball in our most clutch player's hands,

and he delivered," Kansas coach Bill Self said.

It gave Kansas its first title since 1988, when Danny Manning, now an assistant coach for the Jayhawks, led them to an upset of Oklahoma. And the shot earned Chalmers the most outstanding player honor.

"I had a good look at it," Chalmers said. "When it left my hands it felt like it was good, and it just went in."

The most memorable performance in this one, though, came from Rose, the Memphis freshman, who completely took over the game in the second half, scoring 14 of his team's 16 points during one stretch to lift the Tigers to a 60-51 lead with 2:12 left.

But Kansas (37-3) used the strategy any smart

See KANSAS on Page 26

Kansas' Darnell Jackson celebrates with the championship trophy after defeating Memphis 75-68 in the championship game at the NCAA college basketball Final Four Monday, April 7, 2008, in San Antonio.



## Rush does his job for Kansas



Kansas' Brandon Rush (25) reacts after defeating Memphis 75-68 in overtime in the championship game at the NCAA college basketball Final Four Monday, April 7, 2008, in San Antonio.

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)**—Chasing their first NCAA title in 20 years, the Kansas Jayhawks knew they were asking a lot from Brandon Rush.

All they needed from him was another big game on offense and a superb effort on

Memphis star Chris Douglas-Roberts at the other end.

Rush gave them one out of two—and that was good enough to help the Jayhawks beat Memphis 75-68 in overtime in the national championship game Monday night.

Douglas-Roberts scored 22 points, one below his average in the NCAA tournament, but Rush made him work for every one.

Rush scored only 12 points—but four came in overtime, as the Jayhawks pulled away.

At times, Rush was so tight on Douglas-Roberts that he seemed to be inside his tattoos. Douglas-Roberts had 13 points on 5-of-8 shooting from the floor in the first half, but Rush never gave him a chance to take over the game when it mattered. Douglas-Roberts had only one field goal in the second half and one in overtime.

With Kansas down 2 in the final minute, Rush harried Douglas-Roberts into missing a shot as the shot clock expired, but the Jayhawks couldn't capitalize.

Early in overtime, Rush pressured Douglas-Roberts into a turnover and then scored on a layup at the other end. With about a minute remaining, Rush took a full-court pass and scored to put the Jayhawks up 71-65.

Rush led the Jayhawks to their third NCAA title, and first since 1988. A fan in the Jayhawks-heavy Alamodome crowd flashed a placard that read, "1988: Twenty years in the making." The man who led the Jayhawks to that title, Danny Manning, was sitting on the Kansas bench as one of Bill

See RUSH on Page 26



## Memphis fouls it up, title slips away

By BEN WALKER  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)**—Clang. Bonk. Boing.

That was the awful sound of Memphis letting the NCAA championship game rattle away at the foul line Monday night.

Too bad for the Tigers, they lived up to their reputation at the end—a wonderful team that simply couldn't make free throws.

"It came back and bit us. We missed them. We missed them at a crucial time," All-American Chris Douglas-Roberts said. "I guess you can boil it down to the free throws."

Given a chance to put away Kansas, stars Douglas-Roberts and Derrick Rose hit just

See MEMPHIS on Page 26

Memphis' Derrick Rose (23) shoots a free throw with 10 seconds left against Kansas in the championship game at the NCAA college basketball Final Four Monday, April 7, 2008, in San Antonio. Rose made one and missed one in this attempt at the line.

